

## **GW-Bull-Intro**

### **GroundWork Bulletins, 1995-2000**

Toward the end of the magazine, we started putting out 4-page Bulletins, as a way of bridging the time between issues. They usually accompanied a fundraising letter.

The Bulletins have a LOT of info, and were quite a bit of work in the pre-internet days. They didn't circulate beyond our subscriber list (3000-5000), and a handful given out at events.

I believe this is a complete set:

1995

1996a

1996b

1997

1999a

1999b

2000

This idea was subsequently picked up by Reclaiming Quarterly, which more or less absorbed GW around 1998. RQ put out periodic Bulletins, including local ones for Spiral Dance, etc.

Scanned December 2008 – George Franklin

A special bulletin published by GroundWork magazine

## Low Level Radioactive Waste Dump Back on Fast Track

### *California Organizers Call For National Gathering*

In early May 1995 Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt announced that he will transfer BLM land in Ward Valley, California, to the State of California for construction of a "low level" radioactive waste (LLRW) landfill. The announcement came after a report on the project was issued by a National Academy of Sciences panel. The majority of the panel recommended going ahead with the dump, although two geologists dissented. Organizers, as well as other members of the NAS, had complained of links between many panel members and the nuclear industry.

The two dissenting geologists said further tests are needed to rule out the possibility that radionuclides from the landfill could get into the Colorado River. Babbitt and the California State Department of Health Services refuse to conduct more tests because that would delay opening the dump. Biologists on the panel agreed with dump opponents that it won't work to relocate the desert tortoises that live where the dump would go in. To our dismay, they recommended sacrificing those tortoises.

Organizers will oppose the land transfer in court, but their lawsuits may become useless if Congress passes legislation exempting Ward Valley from the Endangered Species Act and the Environmental Protection Act.

Given the urgency of the situation, organizers have called for a six-day national gathering in Ward Valley from October 10-15, 1995. The gathering will include a conference on Ward Valley

and an encampment to protect the land and the Colorado River, which are sacred to Native Americans living along the river.

Activities envisioned for the six days include tours of the site, workshops, strategy sessions, banner on Interstate 40 (which is one mile from the proposed dump site), music, and a Spirit Run organized by Mojave Indians. Conferees will assess whether non-violent direct action is needed.

The Ward Valley gathering is timed to follow the annual "Call



to the Desert '95" at the Nevada Test Site on the preceding weekend (October 6-9). Participants in either gathering are encouraged to attend the other. It is about 160 miles from the Test Site to Ward Valley.

Please consider coming to Ward Valley in October. Since the last LLRW dump closed for national use one year ago, this is the ideal time to start a new radioactive waste policy. We should keep nuclear waste above ground and monitor it until its radioactivity

*Continued on page 4*

## A bulletin for changing times...

Welcome to our First GroundWork "Extra!"

This four-page bulletin is a way for us to get up-to-date news to our readers while we are working on the next full issue of GroundWork, due out in the fall.

Like GroundWork magazine, this bulletin covers grassroots organizing across the gamut of social justice, peace and environmental issues.

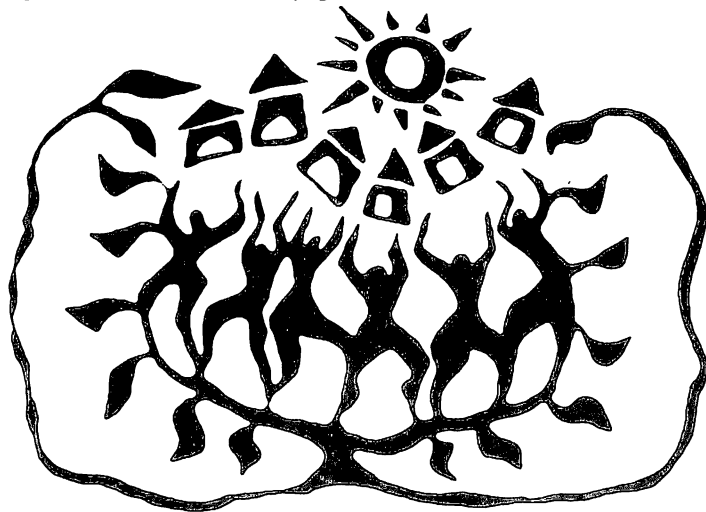
The accompanying letter details our vision for the magazine, and our hopes for increasing the frequency of publication and expanding circulation for GroundWork. We have also enclosed a special reader survey. Your responses will enable us develop the magazine as a tool for the grassroots. Please help out!

We receive newspapers and newsletter from literally hundreds of groups around the country. From our vantage point, we can see the range, diversity, and sheer volume of grassroots organizing going on in this country and internationally. In times of such deep political and social malaise, this is an inspiring sight.

This bulletin is a small attempt to keep you up to date on what's happening.

Yours,  
the GroundWork collective

P.S. — if you have not seen GroundWork #5, or didn't get a copy of our letter and survey, give us a call — 510-644-3906.



## From the Ground Up

### National News Notes

A course in radical science called *Science for Human Survival* is being offered this fall at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. George Salzman, who has also been teaching at the Oglala Lakota College in South Dakota, has produced a resource list and a compendium of alternative sources of information for his courses. For more information, call 617-287-6067.

*Redirect Action*, a war tax resistance publication based in Maine, has decided to end publication after four excellent years. The publication was a major support for the Colrain action, where a house

was "reclaimed" from the IRS by nonviolent direct action. For ongoing information on war tax resistance, read *More than a Paycheck*, available for \$10/year from the National War Tax Coordinating Committee, PO Box 774, Monroe, ME 04951, 207-525-7774.

*Kentuckians for the Commonwealth* in Floyd County led a group of thirty citizens who testified at a March hearing on the state's inability or unwillingness to enforce the county's solid waste plan. In particular, KFTC members are concerned about the amount of medical waste that local incinerators are allowed to burn. Contact KFTC, PO Box 1450, London KY 40743, 606-878-2161. For information in the Prestonburg area, call 606-886-0043.

*Reclaiming the Airwaves* is published by Free Radio Berkeley and the Free Communications Coalition. Micropower "pirate" broadcasting stations are operating now in Berkeley/Oakland, San Francisco, Santa Cruz and other Northern California cities, to the great consternation of the FCC and corporate radio. In Berkeley/Oakland over 50 people have been doing shows, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 104.1 FM. Get the latest information from 1442-A Walnut #406, Berkeley CA 94709, 510-464-3041.

*Preserving the Bull Run Mountains* — Over 240 people gathered on April 23rd outside The Plains near the Bull Run Mountains for a "Wet Meadow Walk" sponsored by the Friends of Bull Run, a group working on public environmental and historical programs. Contact FoBR, Box 402, The Plains, VA 22171, 703-253-5501. (Condensed from the *New River Free Press*, PO Box 846, Blacksburg VA 24063, 703-951-7320.)

*Dioxin: The Orange Resource Book* is a 96-page double issue of Synthesis/Regeneration magazine, a journal of Green social thought. It is an organizing book for activists and a resource for anyone concerned with dioxins. Dues-paying members of the national Greens network will receive a copy free. Additional copies can be ordered from Gateway Green Alliance, PO Box 8094, St. Louis MO 63156. \$7 each. Generous bulk discounts are available.

*Live From Death Row*, a new book by African American community organizer Mumia Abu-Jamal, is off the press. It's important to buy the book because the Philadelphia police are organizing a boycott of the publisher, Addison-Wesley. Mumia is a world-renowned journalist who was falsely accused and convicted of killing a police officer. For more information, contact the First Amendment Center, 510-215-5777.

A new, free and confidential hotline has been established for GI's at 1-800-FYI-95GI. Learn: how to respond to abuse, discrimination or harassment how to get out of the military how to resist deployment how to apply for Conscientious Objector status.

A video of highlights from NOW's April 9th Rally for Women's Lives, in Washington DC and NOW's Young Feminist Summit is available for \$10. Call 202-331-0066.

The "Building Our Swords into Plowshares" project held an open

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# NUKE NOTES

## **Prairie Island Peace Camp Busted**

On March 29th, three members of a peace camp at the Northern States Power nuclear plant at Prairie Island, Minnesota were arrested, and the peace camp was dispersed. The arrests were the culmination of a dispute between members of the Mdewakanton Dakota tribe and the official tribal council. None of the council members lives on the reservation, and at least one is on the payroll of NSP. Peace campers had been invited onto the reservation by a resident.

The Prairie Island nuke, located on an island in the Mississippi River, is situated 700 meters from homes of the Mdewakanton Dakota people. In May, NSP loaded a new, defectively-made storage cask, despite public outcry. For more information, write 5636 Sturgeon Lake Road, Welsh MN 55089. (*thanks to Sarah for the update*) Call 612-378-5099 or 612-788-8727.

## **Mescalero Apache Referendum**

In March 1995 the Mescalero Apache Tribe in New Mexico held a second referendum and overturned their prior "NO" vote against a high level nuclear waste "temporary storage" project on the reservation. Moving waste from 94 commercial nuclear power reactors to New Mexico would impact 100 million Americans along the transportation routes. The shipments will be in addition to the 3,300 shipments that DOE plans to make to INEL and Savannah River (see below). Contact HANDs at 505-671-4844.

## **Idaho National Engineering Lab Shipments**

DOE is expected to announce 3,300 shipments of highly radioactive waste fuel rods over the next 40 years to the Idaho National Engineering Lab (INEL) and to Savannah River, South Carolina. The waste will come from US Navy reactors, DOE reactors, non-DOE reactors, university reactors, and foreign reactors. 22,700 waste fuel elements will come from foreign reactors. Contact Snake River Alliance at 208-344-9161, 208-726-7271, or 208-234-4782.

## **Yucca Mountain**

Scientists at Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico are concerned that burying high level nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain, Nevada, could cause an atomic explosion thousands of years in the future, when the steel canisters containing the waste will have disintegrated and plutonium will escape confinement. Yucca Mountain is the only permanent repository for high level waste currently being considered in the US. It is located next to the Nevada Test Site. Contact Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force at 800-227-9809.

## **Pax Christi**

*"Remembering the Pain/Repenting the Sin/Reclaiming the Future"* is a series of events centered around prayer, reflection and nonviolent action to be held in Washington DC from July 16-August 9th, 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Japan. On August 6th, a prayer service will be held in the National Cathedral with Martin Sheen and Daniel Berrigan. Contact Pax Christi, 3047 Fourth St NE, Washington DC 20017, 202-635-0441.

## **Pantex**

Pantex activists are planning a Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration for August 4-6, 1995. Events will be held at Amarillo Civic Center, the Peace Farm, and at Pantex nuclear weapons plant. Sponsored by the Red River Peace Network in cooperation with Peace Action Texas. Call 806-335-1715.

## **Atomic Pilgrimage**

*The Atomic Mirror Pilgrimage* will retrace the steps of the first atomic bombs, with events in New Mexico, Nevada Test Site, the San Francisco Bay Area, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. See GW #5 for more details. For information, call Gateway Center for Art & Social Change, 510-893-1540.

## **Nevada Desert Experience**

From August 4-9, 1995, Nevada Desert Experience will commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki and look at the nuclear history of the last 50 years. Activities include a bus tour of the Nevada Test Site, workshops, interfaith services, and nonviolent civil disobedience. Write Nevada Desert Experience at PO Box 4487, Las Vegas NV 89127-0487.

## **Tri-Valley CAREs**

In April and May 1995 Tri-Valley CAREs from Livermore, California, participated as a Non-Governmental Organization in UN negotiations about extending the International Treaty for the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Tri-Valley CAREs is pushing the US to fulfill its treaty obligation to eliminate nuclear weapons. Contact Tri-Valley CAREs at 510-443-7148 or 510-449-6603.

## **Tritium Fast Track**

Even as the world signs an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, DOE is planning a multi-billion dollar project to resume production of tritium (radioactive hydrogen) to enhance the bang of American thermo-nuclear warheads.

The environmental impact statement for Complex 21 (DOE's reconfigured nuclear weapons complex for the 21st century) was separated into 2 parts so that DOE can fast-track the production of tritium. This summer DOE is expected to announce whether it will produce the tritium in a particle accelerator that would use untested technology, or in a reactor built mostly by private nuclear industry funds. The most likely location for the tritium facility is the Savannah River Site in South Carolina. Now is the time to stop this environmental and security disaster *before* it happens.

## **Watts Bay**

On April 29-30, 1995, the Snail Darter Alliance held a renewable energy fair and rally to support sustainable technologies and oppose the Tennessee Valley Authority's plan to begin operating unit 1 of the Watts Bar nuclear power plant this fall. Unit 1 has been shut down since whistle-blowers raised safety concerns in 1985. Serious safety concerns remain. Contact Snail Darter Alliance at 615-524-4771 or 615-624-3939.

## **Plutonium Launch**

The Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice is organizing around NASA's plans to launch large amounts of plutonium into space in

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## Nuke Notes

Continued from page 3

1997. An accident could make Chernobyl look insignificant. Get the "Cassini Fact Sheet" from the Coalition by writing PO Box 90035, Gainesville FL 32607, 904-468-3295.

# Green News

## Greens Plan 1995 National Gathering

The Greens will hold their National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 27-30, 1995. The Conference will be a chance to network with other Greens, share success stories and frustrations, and learn organizing skills. The event features speakers including Dolores Huerta, Jim Hightower and Ron Daniels.

Workshops, and panel discussions on all aspects of Green organizing are planned. Topics include toxics organizing, proportional representation, the Greens and other third party efforts, coalition building, and much more.

For more information on the Conference, including travel and housing arrangements, call Lynne Serpe, 505-266-4890, or Cris Moore at 505-986-2071, email: moore@santefe.edu

## New Home for Greens Clearinghouse

The Greens Clearinghouse has moved from Kansas City to Blodgett Mills, New York. Blodgett Mills is near Cortland, Ithaca and Syracuse. The new Clearinghouse coordinator is longtime Green activist Betty Wood.

Contact the Greens Clearinghouse at PO Box 100, Blodgett Mills, NY 13738, 607-756-4211. The email address is: gpusa@igc.apc.org

## From The Ground Up

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house on May 20 for the energy-efficient duplex built by volunteers in Greenfield, Massachusetts. The house is a "constructive" response of the war-tax non-cooperation campaign to the IRS seizure of the home of Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner in the nearby town of Colrain. For information contact 413-773-8031.

A few days after the Winter 1995 Earth First! conference in Austin, Texas, 1,000 townspeople packed an Austin city council meeting and convinced them to reject a secret deal that would have let Freeport MacMoRan develop over 4,000 acres of sensitive watersheds that are home to several endangered species. Freeport is the number one water polluter in the US, mostly due to its dumping radioactive phosphogypsum into the Mississippi River from its corporate headquarters in New Orleans. It has also poisoned a river in West Papua below the world's largest gold mine. For more info contact Earth First! Journal, 503-741-9191.

*The White Earth Land Recovery Project* is an indigenous Anishinaabeg Indian effort to regain stolen lands and protect them from environmental degradation. In 1989, the WELRP began a series of legal battles to recover lands taken through unethical tax foreclosures, treaty abrogations, and property thefts of the 1800s and early 1900s. WELRP's key strategy is the direct purchase of land from non-Indian owners. Land is placed in a perpetual trust, overseen by a community board of Anishinaabeg leaders. For more information, contact WELRP, 218-473-3110.

*Food Not Bombs* activist Keith McHenry is heading out on a "Rent is Theft" tour of North America, visiting Food Not Bombs groups and other community organizers in almost fifty cities from late August through mid-November, 1995. Keith will be discussing direct action against the global austerity program, vegan cooking, pirate radio, and squatting. For more information, call 1-800-884-1136.

## Low Level Radioactive Waste Dump

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decays to a safe level. Burying it in another unlined landfill can only cause problems. The LLRW dump in Beatty, Nevada (near the Nevada Test Site) leaked radiation into the groundwater after only a couple of decades, not the hundreds of years predicted by the dump operator.

To receive a registration form for the Ward Valley encampment and conference, give your address to BAN Waste Coalition at 2760 Golden Gate Drive, San Francisco CA 94118. Phone: 415-752-8678. Also, please indicate whether you can go to Ward Valley for an emergency, floating date, nonviolent direct action (should one be needed).

by *Tori Woodard*

# Ground Work

**Photos...**



**and news...**

**Nevada Test Site**  
October "500 Years"  
Events Planned  
American Peace Test, the Western  
Nuclear, the Global Anti-Nu-  
clear, and other groups are or-  
ganizing a series of interna-  
tional events at Nevada  
Test Site

**April**  
Generational Gathering  
and  
Actions  
By:  
The 4c  
Anti-Nu-  
clear  
Coalition

**Direct from the grassroots!**

PO Box 14141, San Francisco CA 94114, 510-644-3906

## Activists Fight to Save Largest Wilderness

The Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem (GSSE) is dominated by a giant swath of mountains named for the river that runs wild through its center: the Salmon River Mountains. The mountains are not particularly high, but they are numerous and rugged.

Most importantly, they are forested.

There are some six million acres of contiguous, roadless forests in the ecosystem. The southern part of the wilderness contains the longest undammed river in the west, the Salmon River, primary migration route for Idaho's Chinook salmon. The northern area is home to cedars, grizzly bear, and the last Idaho wolves not forced to wear radio collars.

The Salmon River Mountains are the largest remaining wilderness in the lower 48 states. It is one of the last places where you can see a wolverine, a lynx, goshawk, or boreal owl in its natural habitat.

It is the place we still see the wild Chinook salmon spawning in Idaho. Unless something miraculous happens, it will be our generation which watches that magnificent fish depart from our blue-green planet.

### The Cove/Mallard Roadless Areas

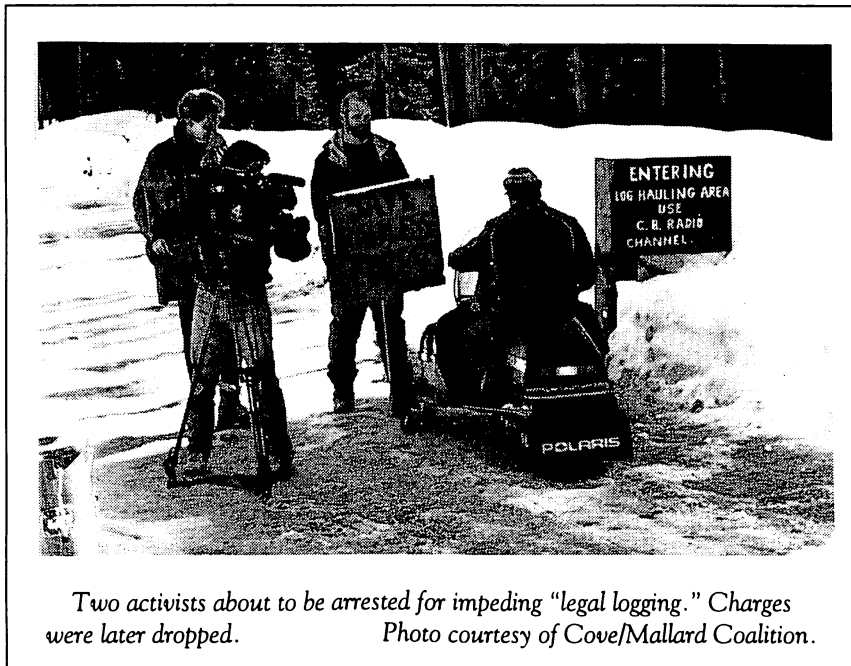
The Cove and Mallard Roadless Areas encompass 76,000 acres in the GSSE in central Idaho. They form a vital wildlife corridor connecting two larger wilderness areas.

Timber sales in the Cove/Mallard area are the largest road building and logging project in the history of the region. Plans call for 145 miles of new roads to cut 81 million board feet of timber in 200 clearcuts. So far, 12 cuts totaling 5 million board feet have been cut.

Since the early 1990's, environmentalists have coalesced

around the Cove/Mallard roadless areas. Activists have used road blockades, tree and tripod sits, equipment lockdowns, and demonstrations. About 200 people have been arrested in protests that have brought the issue to regional and national attention.

Citizens from several organizations, including the Ecology Center, Native Forest Network, and Cold Mountain/Cold Rivers, have been documenting violations of environmental laws. The Idaho Sporting Congress filed a lawsuit in 1993 challenging the legality of the Cove/Mallard sales. The suit is pending in federal court.



Two activists about to be arrested for impeding "legal logging." Charges were later dropped. Photo courtesy of Cove/Mallard Coalition.

### Summer of actions

In mid-to-late June, logging is planned for the Cove Mallard area. When it begins, activists plan to be there, resisting. A base camp is being set up on twenty acres of private land.

There are many ways to get involved, from writing letters to visiting the base camp to hiking through the area to laying your body on the line to prevent this disaster.

- June 30 - July 7 — The 1996 Earth First! Round River Rendezvous will be held at the base camp in the Cove/Mallard area. Call the Earth

First Hotline, 510-848-8724.

- July 15 - August 12 — The "Roving Action Team" will hit the road, moving through the Wild Rockies, bringing their unique brand of subversion to the sites of timber destruction and other exploitative activities in the region.

- August 12-18 — Wild Rockies Week at the base camp, with workshops, strategizing, etc.

- August 17 — Wild Rockies International Day of Action, as the culmination of Wild Rockies Week.

For more information, contact the Cove/Mallard Coalition,

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# From the Ground Up

## National News Briefs

**Food Not Bombs** offers resources for community activists working on urban food and housing issues:

- *Rent Is Theft* is a new book by Keith McHenry, covering taking over abandoned housing, micropower radio. Detailed diagrams and practical skills show you how to free your community from corporate control. Available this fall for \$12 ppd.

- 1997 Rebel Calendar, an 11 x 17 wall calendar with photos and artwork highlighting resistance to repression. \$12 ppd.

- Start your own Food Not Bombs group. Join almost 100 decentralized local groups across the continent and in Europe. Recipes, logos and flyers, and more. \$10 ppd.

- Join Food Not Bombs at the Summer Olympics! — See GW#6, page 30, or call 1-800-884-1136.

Contact Food Not Bombs, 3145 Geary Blvd #12, San Francisco CA 94118, 1-800-884-1136.

**Greens Gathering 1996**, "Building Critical Mass," meets August 15-19 at UCLA, Los Angeles. Greens and kindred movements are invited to come together for five days of workshops, panels, discussions, and more. Registration is \$75. Housing \$46/night. Some scholarships and free housing are available.

Contact Greens Gathering '96, PO Box 5631, Santa Monica CA 90409-5631, 310-473-3896. Or contact the Greens Clearinghouse at PO Box 100, Blodgett Mills NY 13738, 607-756-4211.

**Florida Youth Peace Camp**, August 4-10 at Auburndale, Florida, is a multicultural gathering of young people and adults dedicated to teaching love, peace and respect for each other, the earth, and all living things. Geared towards youth 12-19. Sliding scale \$175-250, including food and cabin. Limited partial scholarships available. Sponsored by the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice, PO Box 90035, Gainesville FL 32607, 352-468-3295.

**War Tax Resisters** are organizing support for a family in Hartford, Maine, whose house is being seized by the IRS for refusal to pay war taxes. Contact National War Tax Resistance, PO Box 774, Monroe ME 04951, 207-525-7774.

**Biotechnology and Agriculture** activists in Seattle have produced a 24-minute video called "Risky Business," exploring the human and environmental dangers of genetic engineering. Contact Moving Images Video Project, 2408 East Valley Rd., Seattle WA 98112, 206-323-9461.

**Water is Life** is the title of a special edition of *Voces Unidas*, the publication of SouthWest Organizing Project. The issue also carries grassroots news from the southwest, and a special resources section on Chicano History. Contact SWOP, 211 10th St. SW, Albuquerque NM 87102.

## Native American News Briefs

**Leonard Peltier** has again been denied parole despite the government's failure to produce evidence that he was the person who killed two FBI agents at the Pine Ridge Reservation, South

Dakota, in 1975. Peltier has been moved to a medical facility in Springfield, Missouri. Supporters have mounted an ongoing civil disobedience campaign, with actions this spring in several cities. Contact PO Box 76609, Washington DC 20013, 202-783-2512.

**Native American Indian People's Conferences** is an ongoing grassroots forum connecting traditional and modern ways in the Seattle area. Gatherings will be held October 18-19 and November 22-23, 1996. For more information, contact 206-821-8940.

**Prairie Island Sioux** tribal council has reached an agreement with Northern States Power, whereby NSP would buy 1750 acres of land away from tribal lands in Minnesota. NSP operates a nuclear power plant adjacent to the tribal reservation, where the tribe has lived since 1886. NSP also has plans for waste storage on site. Many members of the tribe and neighboring communities oppose the settlement, and want the power plant shut down with no local waste storage. Contact PICANS, 612-333-5807.

**Nitassinan News** carries news of the Innu people's struggles to protect their land in eastern Canada from logging, mining, low-level flying, and other threats to their traditional way of life. Contact Friends of Nitassinan, 21 Church St., Burlington VT 05401, 802-425-3820.

## To the Reader

We are happy to send you this GroundWork "Extra", our summer bulletin. Following GW#6 (produced this spring), this bulletin is the second installment of our pledge to publish four times over the next year.

Like GroundWork magazine, the bulletin covers grassroots organizing across the gamut of social justice, peace and environmental issues. The bulletin is a distillation of the hundreds of mailings, phone messages, newsletters and other information we receive that inspire us, and we are glad to pass along as much as we are able.

Our next bulletin is scheduled for early fall, with the next full issue around the first of the year. Please send photos, news, publications, and other information to us by September 1..

The accompanying letter lays out our evolving vision for GroundWork. Your support at this time is critical for sustaining the magazine as we move toward quarterly publication. Please subscribe or renew now and help keep alive the "Voice of the Grassroots." If you have not seen GroundWork #6, give us a call — 415-255-7623.

Yours,  
the GroundWork collective

## nuke notes

# Nuclear Weapons Industry Has Big Plans

by *Tori Woodard*

Despite the end of the Cold War and public sentiment against production of nuclear weapons, the Department of Energy [DOE] is proceeding with plans to modernize the nuclear weapons complex. In brief, they want to build expensive and dangerous new facilities at the weapons labs and the Nevada Test Site, while turning most of the rest of the weapons complex into de facto waste repositories.

DOE already closed down Hanford (Washington), Rocky Flats (Colorado), and the facilities at Fernald and Mound in Ohio. DOE slashed the budget for cleaning up those facilities, but increased the budget for nuclear weapons. Now DOE is considering closing down production at Oak Ridge (Tennessee), Pantex (Texas), and Kansas City (Missouri). But that doesn't mean DOE would stop making nuclear weapons.

If these facilities close, DOE wants to move the assembly and disassembly of nuclear weapons from Pantex to the Nevada Test Site (60 miles northwest of Las Vegas). They would move the fabrication of high explosives from Pantex, and the fabrication of secondaries and cases from Oak Ridge, to Livermore Lab (California) or Los Alamos Lab (New Mexico).

DOE wants to start up two aspects of nuclear weapons production that were shut down a few years ago. They want to start manufacturing plutonium pits at Los Alamos Lab or the Savannah River Site (South Carolina). They want to build a new facility to produce tritium at Savannah River.

### **Weapons Labs Thrive While Other Facilities Close**

Even worse than these plans to continue business as usual are DOE's plans for "science-based stockpile stewardship and management." This concept translates into building new, extremely expensive, state-of-the-art "surrogate" testing facilities to design new weapons and make sure existing weapons work.

Any rational person would expect the weapons design labs and the Nevada Test Site to shut down with the Cold War over. But no — DOE hopes to beef up all of them. DOE's funding priorities include the:

◇ National Ignition Facility [NIF] at Livermore Lab, in which a 192-beam laser system will cause thermonuclear implosions (\$4.5 billion)

◇ Advanced Hydrotest Facility at Los Alamos or the Neva-

da Test Site, offering 6 to 8 simultaneous views of implosions

◇ Contained Firing Facility at Site 300, Livermore Lab, for hydrodynamic testing of nuclear weapons

◇ Jupiter Facility at Sandia National Lab (in Albuquerque, New Mexico), an x-ray weapons effect testing system

◇ Atlas Facility at Los Alamos lab - a capacitor bank for simulated weapons environments

◇ "Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative" (\$2.1 billion).

Other nations can hardly be expected to sit idly by while DOE uses this new level of technology to design and build new weapons.

### **New Tests Planned at Nevada Test Site**

DOE planned a series of four "subcritical" nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site, starting June 18, 1996. The purpose of the tests was to assess the effects of new manufacturing techniques on weapons materials, to enhance computer modeling of nuclear weapon performance, and to maintain the capabilities of the Test Site.

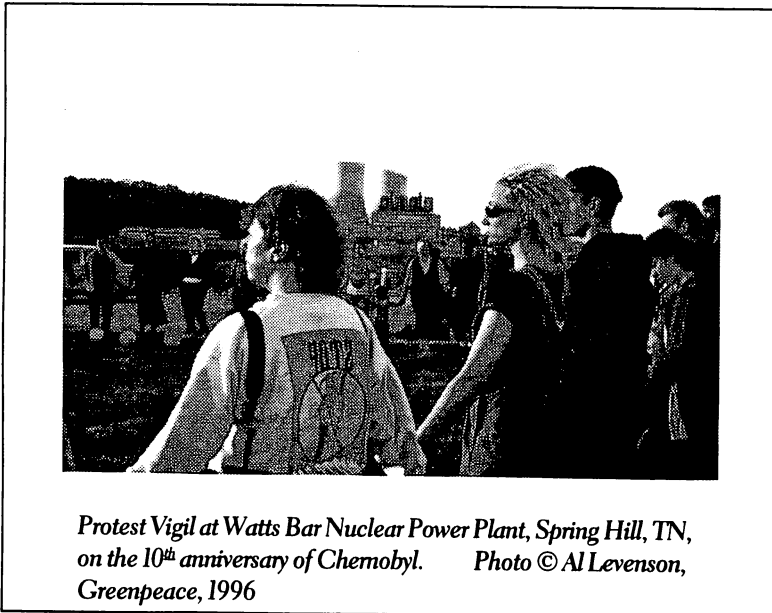
Opposition to the "subcritical" nuclear tests by the American public and foreign diplomats forced the Clinton Administration to postpone them at the last minute on June 17. Such tests would un-

dermine the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and efforts to conclude a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty this year.

### **What You Can Do**

Call President Clinton and urge him to cancel, not just postpone, the "subcritical" nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site (202-456-1111).

Congress will vote on funding for NIF in July 1996. NIF will undermine the Nuclear Non-proliferation and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaties. Residents of Livermore and surrounding communities ask you to urge your representative to vote against it. Also call Congressman Vic Fazio (from Sacramento, California); he is on the House Energy & Water Subcommittee that is considering NIF. Finally, ask Congressman Ron Dellums to take the lead in opposing NIF. All members of Congress are at 202-224-3121. For more information, contact Tri-Valley CAREs at 510-443-7148 or Western States Legal Foundation at 510-839-5877.



*Protest Vigil at Watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant, Spring Hill, TN, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chernobyl. Photo © Al Levenson, Greenpeace, 1996*



## International News briefs

The International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission publishes "Emergency Response Network," a bimonthly newsletter of news concerning sexual minorities from around the world. Contact IGLHRC, 1360 Mission #200, San Francisco CA 94103, 415-255-8680.

WorldViews is the new name of the "Quarterly review of Resources for Education and Action," formerly known as "Third World Resources." This periodical carries news and resources from every part of the globe. Video reviews, publications, classroom materials, and more are in every issue. Contact the Data Center, 464 19th St., Oakland CA 94612, 510-835-4692.

Abya Yala News is the publication of the South and Meso American Indian Rights Center (SAIIC). The Spring 1996 issue focuses on Indigenous women's organizing throughout the continent, with interviews, news, and resources, as well as human rights reports, land and self-determination issues, and more. Subscriptions are \$25, \$15 low-income, \$40 institutions. Contact SAIIC, PO Box 28703, Oakland CA 94604, 510-834-4263.

### Nuclear Weapons Industry

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#### Other resources

The Western Shoshone people of the Nevada Test Site area don't want more tests, a weapons assembly and disassembly plant, or the nuclear waste that DOE is hauling onto the Test

Site every day. They want the Test Site shut down and cleaned up. Western Shoshone elder Corbin Harney started the Shundahai Network in Washington DC to be a grassroots voice against nuclear proliferation. You can contact them at 202-588-0912.

The All Peoples Coalition in Albuquerque, New Mexico, keeps tabs on Los Alamos, Sandia and WIPP, and seeks compensation for uranium miners and "downwinders." Contact them at 505/266-2663.

### Activists Fight to Save Wilderness

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PO Box 8968, Moscow ID 83843, 208-882-9755, fax 208-883-0727, email: cove@moscow.com

#### Cove/Mallard Resources

- The Earth First! Journal (Beltane/May 1st issue) has an excellent pull-out section with maps, recommended equipment, action dates, and more on the Cove/Mallard campaign. Send \$5 ppd to PO Box 1415, Eugene OR 97440.

- Seeds of Peace has provided indispensable food and logistical support for the Cove/Mallard campaign. PO Box 31076, Flagstaff AZ 86003, 520-774-3645.

- The Ecology Center is a nerve center for the Northern Rockies. 1519 Cooper Street, Missoula MT 59807, 406-728-5733.

- Native Forest Network is a global network of forest activists, indigenous peoples, conservation biologists and other non-governmental organizations. The regional contact is PO Box 8251, Missoula MT 59807, 406-542-7343.

## Forest News Briefs

**Southern Forests Threatened:** A feeding frenzy over the remaining native forest ecosystems of the South and East is being led by chip mills and whole log exporters (See GroundWork #6.) Grassroots groups based in the South and Midwest are fighting to preserve these forests. *Contacts:*

- ◆ TAGER, PO Box 4193, Chattanooga TN 37405, 423-886-2993

- ◆ Heartwood, PO Box 402, Paoli IN 47454-0402, 812-723-2430

- ◆ Broader Horizons, PO Box 4826, Chattanooga TN 37405, 423-267-3977.

- ◆ Cumberland Greens Bioregional Council, 7978 Highway 100, Nashville TN 37221, 615-646-6266.

**Summer 1996 to Save Headwaters Forest:** Headwaters Forest encompasses 76,000 acres in Northern California, and includes the pristine 3000-acre Headwaters Grove — the last unprotected ancient redwood forest on Earth. The majestic trees have thrived for thousands of years. Today, the forest is threatened by Maxxam Corporation. The fate of the forest and its endangered species rests with the persistence of the grassroots environmental movement and the enforcement of

environmental laws. With the federal courts having rejected legal appeals to save the forest, activists have planned several weeks of actions this summer.

**July 19-25** — basecamp in Headwaters area. Trainings, followed by actions in defense of the forest.

**August 16-22** — same as July.

**September 13-??** — Until the logging stops.

September 15 marks the end of the Marbled Murrelet nesting season, when protection for the Murrelet-occupied old growth ends and the attack on the virgin groves heightens.

Contact Humboldt Radical Environmental Action Center, 707-923-DEMO, or the Mendocino Environmental Center, 707-468-1660. For updates on Headwaters, join or contact EPIC, PO Box 397, Garberville CA 95542, 707-923-2931.

**White Mountain National Forest:** The proposed Kearsarge North Timber Sale in the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire would strip 6.8 million board feet from a 4700 acre area. The plan includes massive clearcutting and roadbuilding, and would cost taxpayers \$340,000. The area includes what is probably the largest grove of old-growth hemlock in the WMNF. Contact RESTORE, PO Box 440, Concord MA 01742, 508-287-0320.

The last full issue, GroundWork # 6, featured a theme section surveying the state of forests and forest organizing across the continent. It also continued our updates of national nuclear waste organizing, and many other grassroots campaigns. If you have not seen GW #6, please call 415-255-7623 for a sample copy.

## Hundreds Arrested Defending Headwaters

Despite overwhelming public support for preserving the ancient forests around the Headwaters area, Pacific Lumber Company has begun "salvage" logging operations in several groves of the last unprotected redwood forest in the world.

Rallies and direct action coordinated by Earth First! and the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) have kept a continual public presence at the site of the conflict.

7000 people marched and rallied on September 15th, with over 1000 arrested in a mass direct action. Lockdowns, blockades and tree sits continue, with over 200 more arrests slowing logging operations.

Dedicated to keeping the heat on corrupt corporations and inept government officials, activists vow to continue their work until the logging stops. As an Earth First! song says, "We're not leaving until you're out of the forest!"

### The Myth of Salvage Logging

As detailed in the last full issue of GroundWork, "salvage" logging is simply the industry's latest cover for attacking previously pristine areas. GW#6 listed many areas across the country, including national forests, where such practices are now allowed.

The practice is ecologically absurd. Decomposing trees are literally the life of the forest. By removing dead or decaying trees (and incidentally often damaging healthy ones), timber profiteers are disrupting the natural processes by which a forest sustains itself.

### Preserving Trees and Jobs

The federal government has been involved in negotiations with Pacific Lumber, but the recent deal struck behind closed doors preserves only 7500 of the disputed 60,000 acres of redwoods. The entire 60,000 acres must be maintained to preserve the integrity of the redwood ecosystem.

Activists insist that job opportunities for local residents must be addressed in any solution. Corporate logging operations sacrifice worker interests to a financial quick-fix. Forests are destroyed, and jobs vanish. Already-logged areas of North America could support sustainable forests, providing habitat for wildlife as well as jobs for local residents.

*Actions and encampments to protect the Headwaters Forest continue. Contact the Ecology Center, 510-835-6303, EPIC, 707-923-2931, or the Trees Foundation, 707-923-4377.*

## Cove/Mallard Logging Stopped

An agreement among the Idaho Sporting Congress, the

Forest Service, a federal judge and Shearer Lumber has halted all logging and road construction in the disputed Cove/Mallard wilderness area until at least June, 1997. The agreement follows months of direct action and litigation aimed at preserving the largest remaining roadless forest area in the continental U.S.

*See GW#6. Contact 208-882-9755 or 406-549-3978.*

### Earth First! Journal

The Earth First! Journal is the most thorough source of information on forest actions. Send \$25/year (8 issues) to PO Box 1415, Eugene OR 97440.



*Activist in Maine chains himself to the doors of Timberland, Inc., during takeover of premises. A referendum limiting logging in Maine lost in November — see page 2. Photo by Orin Langelle/Native Forest Network.*

# From the Ground Up — National News

## Kentuckians Tackle Welfare Reform

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth are working on issues of welfare reform, setting out a plan for building a system that truly helps people move forward and is sensitive to the concerns of children and communities. KFTC has issued a set of values that could guide welfare systems in every state, including:

- Meet Human Needs
- Reduce Class Divisions
- Open Process
- Communities and Families

KFTC, PO Box 864, Prestonburg KY 41653, 606-886-0043.

## Grassroots Group Opposes Food Irradiation

Food & Water, a grassroots environmental and food safety group, has released an exposé of the U.S. meat industry, detailing links between industry concentration and chronic bacterial contamination of the meat supply that claims thousands of lives every year. Meat Monopolies: *Dirty Meat and the False Promise of Irradiation* is an illustrated report discrediting the food irradiation technology that the FDA is expected to approve in the next few months. \$15 ppd from Food & Water, RR1, Box 68D, Walden VT 05873, 802-563-3300.

## Virginians Oppose Death Penalty

Members of the Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation and Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty conducted the Virginia Journey of Hope this past summer and fall, stopping in 45 cities and towns and holding over 250 events throughout the state. Virginia has executed 32 people since 1976, and has 56 more on death row. Contact PO Box 513, Blacksburg VA 24060, 540-961-7465.

## Portland Greens Protest Nike

Portland Greens organized a protest at Nike's World Headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon during the corporation's annual stockholders meeting. Over \$9 million worth of proxies supported a resolution called for independent monitoring to end 6¢/hour wages, child labor, workplace violence and other abuses practiced in Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand. Call 503-292-8168.

## Bikes Not Bombs Rides in Austin

Austin has joined the growing list of cities with Critical Mass bike rides. Join others working for bicyclists' rights in the monthly ride, last Friday of each month at 4:30pm at the West Mall of the University of Texas.

## Resources for Immigrant Rights

Pueblo Unidos is involved in the production and distribution of packets of bilingual leaflets about civil rights. They take

them to immigrant barrios, citizenship classes, and meetings of the Migant Education Program. Contact The Workers Center, 1700 B Corby Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95407, 707-526-9346 or 571-7559.

## Indiana Forest Activists Need Support

Heartwood, an Indiana-based organization working to end public forest logging, needs your help. Last spring, the building housing the group's office collapsed. No one was hurt, but the group urgently needs help opening a new office and continuing its crucial work. Contact PO Box 1424, Bloomington IN 47402-1424, 812-337-8898.

## State Ballot Initiatives: A Mixed Lot

On November 5, voters in 42 states cast their decisions on a wide range of environmental and social justice issues. Key results:

**California:** Passed a measure allowing for medical use of marijuana when recommended by a physician. California also passed the "California Civil Rights Initiative" which bans affirmative action by state and local government. Opponents have filed suit saying that the proposition is superseded by federal civil rights laws. Protests and civil disobedience have taken place on several college campuses.

**Florida:** A measure calling for a penny a pound tax on sugar growers to provide funds for clean-up of pollution in the Everglades failed. Sugar growers pumped massive amounts of money into advertising to defeat the tax.

**Maine:** A measure that would have banned clearcutting in the state failed. A more conservative measure promoting "sustainable forest management," and backed by the timber industry, passed.

### To the Reader

We are happy to send you this GroundWork "Extra", our winter bulletin.

The bulletin features an update of the forest news that we covered in our last full issue, GW #6, as well as highlights of grassroots organizing around the country. This bulletin particularly focuses on Native American News updates.

Our next full issue of GroundWork, Issue #7, will appear in early 1997. Please send reports, photos, newsletters, etc as soon as possible.

The accompanying letter lays out our evolving vision for GroundWork. Your support at this time is critical for sustaining the magazine as we move toward quarterly publication. Please subscribe or renew now and help keep alive the "Voice of the Grassroots." If you have not seen GW #6, give us a call, 415-255-7623.

Yours,  
the GroundWork collective

# Nuclear News from Around the Country

by *Tori Woodard*

## WIPP to Open November 1997

The Defense Authorization Bill that President Clinton signed this fall contained an amendment stating that the Waste Isolation Pilot Project [WIPP] will open by November 30, 1997.

WIPP is a proposed underground repository carved into a salt deposit near Carlsbad, New Mexico. It is intended to store transuranic waste (elements heavier than uranium) generated by the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. Brine under the repository has raised concerns that the waste could escape and contaminate groundwater as well as surface water.

Organizers are creating an emergency response network to call people to the site in November 1997. If you would like to be on the ERN, contact CARD at 144 Harvard SE, Albuquerque NM 87106, 505-266-2663. Send \$5 for a copy of "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About WIPP."

## Interim Storage at Yucca Mountain

In July 1996 the Senate passed SB 1936, which would allow used fuel rods from nuclear power plants to be trucked from around the country to a parking lot at the proposed Yucca Mountain, Nevada, high level nuclear waste repository (adjacent to the Nevada Test Site). The House of Representatives didn't vote on the companion bill, HR 1020, before adjourning.

Citizen Alert at 702-796-5662 coordinated a western states tour for a life-size mock nuclear waste cask (see photo); the Shundahai Network at 202-588-0912 coordinated a similar eastern states tour. The casks dramatically brought home the impact on towns, cities and freeways of transporting this extremely dangerous waste to Yucca Mountain.

For up-to-date information on legislative maneuvers, call the Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force at 800-227-9809.

## Ward Valley Camp Is One Year Old

Nobody's Wasteland, a camp on the site of a proposed "low level" radioactive waste [LLRW] dump in Ward Valley, California, celebrated its first anniversary October 17. Protesters continue to vigil there while the Bureau of Land Management does a Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement.

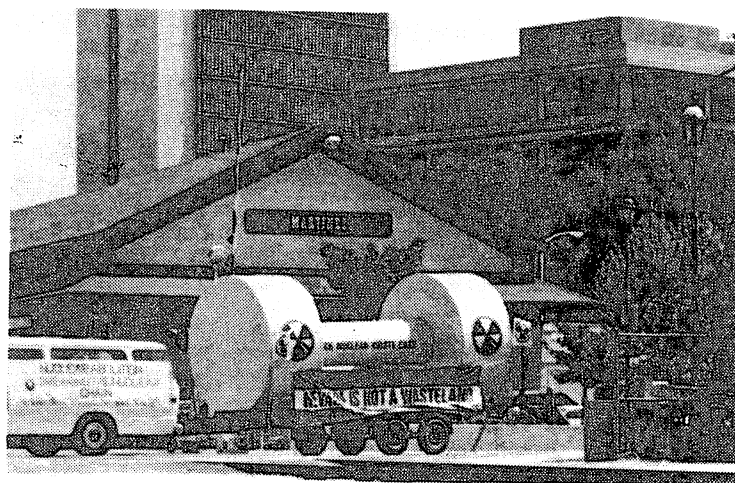
By flooding Washington with phone calls and letters in

September 1996, the Ward Valley Coalition fended off legislation that would have forced the dump project forward. Call Save Ward Valley at (619) 326-6267 to learn how you can participate in the camp or the SEIS process, or help fight legislative threats.

## Sierra Blanca Update

Another LLRW dump is proposed for Sierra Blanca, Texas. Legislation to approve the importation of LLRW into Texas from states such as Vermont has been introduced in Congress more than once. Citizen opposition prevented an amendment to that effect from being included in the 1600-page omnibus appropriations bill this fall.

To help fight future legislative attempts to promote this dump, call Save Sierra Blanca at 915-369-2551.



*Life-sized replica of a G-9 nuclear waste cask passes through Martinez, California, on a tour of nuclear sites. Photo courtesy of Tri-Valley CAREs, Livermore CA, 510-443-7148.*

## DOE Proposes Mixed Waste Dumps

The Department of Energy [DOE] has been assessing the environmental impact of creating from one to 37 mixed waste dumps. Mixed waste is both radioactive and hazardous. DOE would probably prefer to create six dumps; they would be at sites that generate the most mixed waste (Hanford, Washington; the Idaho National Engineering Lab; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Rocky Flats, Colorado;

Savannah River, South Carolina; and Portsmouth, Ohio).

Federal regulations prevent mixed waste from being disposed without "treatment" such as incineration or solidification. Citizens have successfully killed proposals to build new incinerators at Rocky Flats; Los Alamos, New Mexico; Livermore Lab, California; and other facilities.

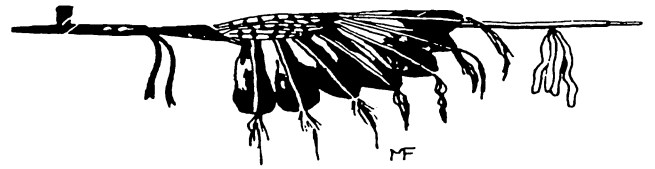
Currently there is only one mixed waste facility in the U.S. Run by Envirocare, this dump near Tooele, Utah, accepts mixed waste from both commercial and military sources. Some DOE mixed waste is reclassified and put in LLRW dumps.

For more information about DOE's proposed mixed waste dumps, contact Don Hancock with the Military Production Network, 505-262-1862.

## Prairie Island Update

Northern States Power withdrew its offer to buy a new reservation for the Mdewakanton Sioux Nation. The offer was

# Native American News



## Big Mountain Relocation Deadline Approaches

After years of struggle to maintain their traditional relationship to lands around Big Mountain, the Diné (Navajo) people are being threatened with a December 31st deadline to accept U.S. government-imposed boundaries or face forcible relocation and confiscation of their livestock. The traditional Diné are calling for people to come to a peace camp near the end of the year to resist eviction. Individuals need to have nonviolence training and be self-sufficient on the land, and to be prepared to witness possible harassment by federal marshals and the BIA. Contact 510-658-9178.

## Logging on Sacred Site

Despite the May 24th presidential executive order protecting sacred sites on federal lands, Enola Hill in Oregon, an acknowledged sacred site, is now being desecrated by logging. After many battles over the years, Enola Hill has become another victim of the "logging without laws" rider, also known as the Timber Salvage Rider. Contact Friends of Enola, PO Box 294, Rhododendron, OR 97049, 503-622-4798.

## Western Shoshone Call for Support

The Dann family of the Western Shoshone Nation, the Western Shoshone Defense Project and the Western Shoshone National Council are asking for immediate assistance in protecting a site of cultural and spiritual significance. Oro Nevada Mining Company has filed a Notice of Intent with the Bureau of Land Management to conduct exploratory drilling for gold directly on top of a hot spring located approximately one mile south of the Dann ranch in Crescent Valley, Nevada. Contact Western Shoshone Defense Project, PO Box 211106, Crescent Valley, NV, 89821, 702-468-0230, fax 702-468-0237.

## Indigenous Nuclear Free Zones

NECONA (National Environmental Coalition of Native Americans), a non-profit educational organization, headquartered in Prague, Oklahoma, is compiling a list of tribes that have declared Nuclear Free Zones (NFZs) on their lands. To declare

or get a copy of NFZ tribal resolutions, contact NECONA, 2213 W. 8th St., Prague, OK 74864, 405-567-4297.

## Military Disrupts Traditional Innu

*"Call back your military jets, they are destroying our people."* — Innu Nation President Peter Penashuae.

On February 20, 1996, Canada signed a new Multinational Memorandum of Understanding for low-level flight training over Eastern Quebec and Labrador, approving up to 18,000 low-level flights a year for ten years. War games are being conducted by Germany, Great Britain and the Netherlands over Innu communities in this area. Contact Innu Nation, PO Box 119, Sheshatshin, Labrador, AOP IMO, Canada, 709-497-8398.

## Mining Threatens Mi'kmaq Land

Kelly Rock Ltd., a subsidiary of Municipal Ready Mix, Ltd. of Sydney, Nova Scotia, wants to build a giant quarry on Cape Breton at Kelly's Mountain, known as Kluscap Mountain and a sacred site to the Mi'kmaq Nation of Eastern Canada. The proposed quarry would produce granite for export to the U.S. and would call for an explosion once a month to dislodge half a million tons of rock at a time. The traditional Mi'kmaq of Cape Breton have formed the Sacred Mountain Society to oppose the development project. Contact Aboriginal Rights Coalition, 151 Laurier Ave E., Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6N8, Canada, 613-235-9956, fax 613-235-1302. Email: arc@web.apc.org.

## Traditional Hopi Under Attack

The traditional Sinom village of Hotvela, located on 3rd Mesa on the Hopi Reservation, is under assault. At issue are the current construction and digging of a sewer line and wastewater lagoon and proposed housing projects, funded by U.S. federal funds. Digging and construction are desecrating sacred areas and shrines. The Hopi Sinom are represented, pro bono, by attorneys Tamera Crites Shanker and Howard M. Shanker. Contact Howard M. Shanker, 141 E. Palm Ln, Suite 201, Phoenix, AZ, 85004, 602-252-6504.

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## Nuke Notes

*continued from page 3*

intended to enable NSP to move used fuel rods into dry cask storage at their Prairie Island nuclear power plant, only 700 yards from the Native American community. The Tribe is now in litigation with NSP. For information, contact Indigenous Environmental Network at 218-571-4967.

## Savannah River Site Plans to Accept Waste

In August 1996 the Savannah River Site released a ten year

plan to make SRS the East Coast Waste Management Center for DOE. The plan includes accepting 3 million pounds of radioactive waste for incineration, plus other radioactive and hazardous waste for treatment, storage or disposal. It foresees reprocessing spent nuclear fuel as well as plutonium sludge and scraps from Rocky Flats and Hanford. (Reprocessing creates even greater volumes of radioactive waste.) The plan proposes to store about 50 tons of plutonium from disassembled nuclear weapons and other DOE sites.

The Energy Research Foundation is opposed to these plans. Contact them at 803-256-7298.

## HEADWATERS ALLIES GEAR UP FOR SEPTEMBER

With logging at the 60,000-acre Headwaters Forest halted for the summer due to endangered species restrictions, activists have begun organizing for a massive outpouring of support in September.

Last fall, 7000 people marched and rallied near the Northern California site, and over 1000 were arrested in a huge civil disobedience action that increased pressure on both the government and Pacific Lumber (PL) to reach a deal which would preserve the world's largest privately-owned stand of old-growth redwood for future generations. This year, demonstrations are planned for September 14-15, and friends of Headwaters across the continent are making plans to attend.

### Brokered deal jeopardizes forest, endangered species

At six public hearings held throughout the state this winter, outraged citizens turned out en masse to condemn the government's backroom deal to pay Maxxam Corp. \$380 million in public land and cash for just 12 percent of the irreplaceable 60,000-acre Headwaters Forest. The hearings were jointly conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the California Department of Forestry (CDF), and other agencies to receive public input on issues to be addressed in a combined state and federal environmental impact study for the Headwaters proposal.

The September 1996 agreement brokered by Senator Dianne Feinstein — an inveterate friend to developers and industrialists — would trade \$250 million of federal land and cash and \$130 million of state land in exchange for 5,625 acres in Headwaters Forest, including the 3,000-acre pristine Headwaters Grove and adjacent Elkhead Springs Grove. Yet it would leave unprotected four other ancient redwood groves

and residual old growth forest land owned by Maxxam subsidiary Pacific Lumber, which conducted salvage logging in the groves last fall. The government would acquire an additional 1,900 acres of logged-over second-growth forest adjacent to Headwaters Grove from neighboring Elk River Timber Company as a buffer zone.

### Public demands: Save all 60,000 acres

The hearings turned into an outpouring of impassioned support for preserving the entire Headwaters Forest — from feisty "Grandmothers for Headwaters" to schoolchildren singing songs about trees to religious leaders evoking a spiritual imperative to preserve the ancient redwoods for future generations. Speaker after speaker condemned the government's deal as a blatant sell-out and serious breach of public trust, and called for protection of all six ancient groves and 60,000 acres in the Headwaters complex.

Even government biologists privately conceded that they shared environmentalists' concerns that the deal would not protect enough habitat and biodiversity to ensure the survival of endangered species living in Headwaters. The ancient forest is home to the marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl, which are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as the coho salmon, which is expected to be listed this spring.

Activists challenged a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that PL is preparing this spring for its entire 200,000 acres of forest land. If approved by federal wildlife officials, the HCP would exempt the timber company from any further environmental review of its logging operations and allow PL an "incidental take" of endangered species. PL further retains the option to call off the deal at any point if they think that federal officials have placed too many logging restrictions on the HCP.

### Calls for independent environmental review

Environmentalists urged FWS to



Grove of ancient Port Orford Cedar, Middle Fork Sixes River Proposed Copper Salmon Wilderness. See story Page 3. Photo by Steve Miller

continued on Page 4



# WARD VALLEY: SACRED SITE OR NUCLEAR DUMP?

*The struggle to save Ward Valley from a nuclear waste dump shifted in spring 1997 from an environmental focus to a battle to protect land sacred to the Mojave, Chemehuevi, Quechan, Cocopah, and Colorado River Indian Tribes who live along the nearby Colorado River.*

*By Tori Woodard*

Ward Valley is sacred because it is close to Spirit Mountain, where the Tribes were created long ago, and because it is the home of KAH-PET, the desert tortoise, which is a brother to the Mojave people. The tortoise plays a significant role in the Creation tale and spiritually ties the people to the land.

In addition, the largest concentration of giant intaglios in North America lies on terraces along the Colorado River between Lake Mead and Yuma. Intaglios are ancient figures carved in the landscape long ago, so large that their full effect can only be appreciated from the air. Two of them lie on facing sides of the Colorado River south of Needles, California, only 20 miles from Ward Valley. Sacred land indeed. Finally, Ward Valley supports the last remaining healthy population of desert tortoises, which are protected by the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species.

Following the lead of the five Tribes, the Ward Valley Coalition consensed at its April 1997 Spring Gathering to oppose any further

destruction of the land in Ward Valley. That means we oppose government plans to drill core samples to test whether putting radioactive waste in unlined trenches would contaminate the aquifer beneath Ward Valley and the Colorado River. Enough evidence already exists to prove that the dump would leak. But whether it leaks or not is beside the point; its mere existence would desecrate sacred land and the sacred tortoise.

The drilling could occur in late summer or fall 1997, and we plan to resist it with nonviolent direct actions. We have an Emergency Response Network telephone tree to notify supporters when it is time to come to the land. If you would like to join our Emergency Response Network, volunteer to maintain our camp on the site of the proposed dump, receive our newsletter, or send a donation to help fund our work, contact Save Ward Valley, 107 F Street, Needles CA 92363. Phone: 760-326-6267. Fax: 760-326-6268.

E-mail: [savewardvalley@bbs.rippers.com](mailto:savewardvalley@bbs.rippers.com).



**Ward Valley opponents take their message to the steps of the state capitol in Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Bradley Angel, Greenpeace**

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## PROTECT CLAYOQUOT RAINFORESTS!

The coastal temperate rainforests of North America once blanketed the West Coast in a continuous band from northern California to southeast Alaska. Today, not a single rainforest watershed remains unlogged south of the 49th parallel. Clayoquot Sound, on Vancouver Island, is the most southerly extent of any significant remaining rainforest valley in North America.

In 1993, the British Columbia (BC) government announced that 74% of the ancient forests in the sound would be open to clearcut logging. Clayoquot, however, is only the tip of the iceberg. The largest concentration of ancient, temperate rainforest in the world is found on the central coast of BC. Environmentalists refer to this vast, roadless wilderness area as the Great Coast Rainforest. It is a labyrinth of deep-water fjords and steep, narrow valleys pushed up against a backdrop of granite mountain peaks and glistening ice fields. The forests here contain some of the oldest and largest trees on earth. They also provide critical habitat for grizzly bears, salmon, and other species.

The Blockades of '93 spurred the formation by the British Columbia government of the Science Panel — a group of blue

ribbon international and national scientists and First Nations whose mandate was to draft recommendations for how to log Clayoquot Sound. Their question was "how," not "whether." The recommendations that came out of this panel were a dramatic shift from the traditional volume-based logging. Coincident with the Science Panel, the Nuuchah-nulth elected government (local First Nations) signed a pre-treaty agreement (the Interim Measures Agreement) with the BC government. Part of this Agreement is a local Central Regional board which has a major say in resource decisions in Clayoquot Sound and part responsibility for implementing the Science Panel recommendations. It is composed of half First Nations government and half nonnative local government.

Meantime, all environmental groups have been continuing to put pressure on Macmillan Bloedel (MB) customers, such as Pac Bell in San Francisco and Kimberly-Clark in the EEC. At this point enviros have managed to cancel tens of millions of dollars of MB contracts, and gained support from city councils in Berkeley, San Francisco and Marin County. *continued on Page 4*

# FROM THE GROUND UP — NATIONAL NEWS

**Big Mountain** Traditional Dineh (Navajo) continue to resist relocation from the Big Mountain area by the U.S. Government, Peabody Coal, and the government-sanctioned Hopi Tribal Council. The motivation for the relocations are to clear the land for mining corporations. If successful, this would be the largest forced relocation of Native Americans in this century. Intense pressure including livestock confiscation and harassment by courts and law officials has forced over half of the Dineh residents to sign relocation agreements. Following a government March 31 deadline, eviction notices to the remaining families were authorized. While it appears no actual forced relocation will occur until the year 2000, no assurances have been made. Support is urgently needed. *Earth First!*, Food Not Bombs and grassroots groups are organizing support. *For more information, contact P.O. Box 12924, Berkeley CA 94712, 415-339-8332, email: www.bmc@mailmasher.com*

Web site: <http://www.macronet.org/macronet/shundahai>.

**Earth First! Journal** To stay in touch with forest and wilderness defense across the continent, read *Earth First! Journal*, \$25 a year (8 issues), P.O. Box 1415, Eugene OR 97440.

**"Spirituality, Community & Social Change,"** the 22nd National Conference on Men and Masculinity, will be held July 17-20 in Collegeville, Minnesota. Over 40 presentations and workshops focus on men's issues. Keynote sessions include GroundWork contributors Margo Adair, whose work links politics and spirituality, and Walt Bressette, a Chippewa organizer from Wisconsin. Contact the National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS), 320-969-2893, fax: 320-363-2504.

**Earth for Sale**, an excellent new book by Brian Tokar, documents the emergence of democratic challenges to corporate dominance of environmental decision-making. Tokar, author of *The Green Alternative*, examines the economic issues, political divisions, and world views that have shaped this conflict, and their implications for a renewed ecological movement. Available for \$18 paperback from South End Press, 116 Saint Botolph Street, Boston MA 02115, 617-266-0629, fax 617-266-1595.

**Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Dudley Street**, a 58-minute video, and *Streets of Hope*, a book by Peter Medoff and Holly Sklar, tell a story of hope and activism in the face of overwhelming obstacles. The residents of an ethnically-diverse Boston neighborhood joined together in a successful grassroots effort to rebuild their neglected community. This project is an inspiring model for urban organizers everywhere. Video available with discussion guides from New Day Films, 201-652-6590, fax 201-652-1973. Book available from South End Press — see above.

**Days of Respect** is a multi-day schoolwide grassroots campaign that organizes young people, parents, teachers and the wider community to build respect and stop violence across line of race, gender and age. Created by working teachers with the Oakland Men's Project, this is a step-by-step manual for creating a successful and renewable violence-prevention campaign in your school. Contact Hunter House, 1-800-266-5592, fax 510-865-4295.

**Safe Energy Handbook** from Plutonium Free Future (PFF) addresses the dangers of nuclear power, the deadly connection between nuclear power and nuclear weapons, and the alternatives for safe, clean, renewable energy technologies available today. Includes contact information for resource, campaign organizations and Internet access. \$4 for single copy. Bulk order discounts. Check payable to: Plutonium Free Future/Energy Book. Mail to: PFF, P.O. Box 2589, Berkeley, CA 94702. 510-540-7645, fax: 510-540-6159, email: [pff@igc.org](mailto:pff@igc.org), web-site: <http://www.nonukes.org> (text of handbook available at our site).

**Save the Elk River** The Elk River flows into the ocean a few miles north of Port Orford, Oregon, in the far northwest corner of the Siskiyou National Forest. The North Fork of the river flows from the pristine forests of the Copper Mountain Roadless Area, and includes some of the finest old-growth Douglas Fir and Port Orford Cedar in the Northwest. The Elk is also one of the most productive Salmon fisheries. Although much of the river is protected, the North Fork remains largely unprotected. President Clinton caved in and signed the so-called "Salvage Rider" that ordered the Forest Service to clearcut over 200 watershed acres, resulting in the Elk being named one of the Ten Most Endangered Rivers in the U.S. by American Rivers. Thanks to good organizing by grassroots groups and organized lobbyists, the worst units of the area were exchanged for timber in a more benign area. The only protection the North Fork has is under the Northwest Forest Plan. This could be overruled by Congress. For more information contact the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, 415-627-6700. [Excerpted from Forest News, by Jim Rogers, 84 4th Street, Portland OR 97520, 541-482-4459.]

**Hundreds Protest Nuclear Testing at Nevada Test Site** Activists from around the world traveled to the Nevada Nuclear Test Site to take part in the annual Healing Global Wounds Gathering and the Shundahai Network's Action for Nuclear Abolition. Several hundred people camped in the traditional Peace Camp across the road from Mercury, Nevada. Attendees heard direct testimony from Indigenous people who have been victimized by the nuclear arms race. On April 1, the second annual Fools' Parade made its way through downtown Las Vegas. Enormous puppets towered above the crowd, bringing the anti-nuclear message to mainstream America. The event culminated with a procession to the gates of the Test Site led by Corbin Harney, spiritual leader of the Shoshone Nation, on whose land the nuclear testing takes place. About fifty peaceful protesters were arrested blockading the entrance to the Site. On April 3, activists blockaded both lanes of Highway 95, shutting down the Test Site for five hours. *For more information on organizing around the Test Site, contact Shundahai Network, 5007 Elmhurst Ln., Las Vegas NV 89108, 702-647-3095, email: shundahai@radix.net.*



## HEADWATERS'S DIRECT ACTION

*Continued from Page 1*

conduct an independent review of all environmental data submitted by PL. The timber company has compiled a 10-year history of illegal logging, falsifying records, lying to officials, and violating state and federal environmental laws and regulations, charged attorney Sharon Duggan, who has litigated several lawsuits against PL.

Activists also criticized the sustained yield plan PL submitted to the CDF this winter, which would enable the timber company to log all of its old growth forests within 20 years, including the four unprotected groves in Headwaters. Environmentalists called on forestry and wildlife officials to evaluate the long term cumulative impacts of logging on the water quality, wildlife, and north coast economy over a 120-year period. Instead of expediting logging, officials should require PL to engage in sustained yield forestry, habitat recovery, and restoration of its clear-cut forest lands, stressed Tracy Katelman of the Trees Foundation.

North coast forest activists are developing a Citizens Alternative Headwaters Forest Restoration Management Plan that will identify core lands, buffer zones, and wildlife corridors in the 60,000-acre Headwaters complex. The citizens group is designing a long-term land management plan that would allow certified sustained yield logging in the remaining forest land using

conservation biology principles and management.

In the face of such concerted resistance the deadline for the Headwaters deal has been extended until February 17, 1998 in order to complete the HCP and environmental review.

### **Rallies and direct action**

With the advent of spring, Headwaters activists everywhere are gearing up for more lobbying, rallies, and direct action to keep the remaining forest standing. Especial energy is focused on the second weekend of September, 1997. With logging stopped until mid-September by the endangered marbled murrelet's mating season, activists have begun planning for another round of rallies and protests beginning with a rally and march September 14, and direct action starting on September 15.

For more information on these events, call the *Headwaters Hotline*, 510-835-6303, sponsored by the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters. Donations and support are also urgently needed. Donations can be sent to BACH, c/o the Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley CA 94702. Ask for the latest issue of the BACH newsletter for detailed updates.

### **More Headwaters Contacts**

*Environmental Protection Information Center* 707-923-2931

*Earth First! Hotline*, 510-848-8724

*Rainforest Action Network*, 415-398-4404

*Trees Foundation*, 707-923-4377



## PROTECT CLAYOQUOT!

*Continued from Page 2*

Last summer, the Friends of Clayoquot Sound and Greenpeace blockaded at Rankin Cove because we were at a stalemate regarding intact watersheds. We don't feel it's time to negotiate how best to experimentally log in the last remaining unspoiled watersheds on Vancouver Island. To date, these blockades are "suspended" pending the negotiated initiatives to explore having a UN Biosphere Reserve in Clayoquot Sound. Over the past year, the Nuuchah-nulth, local communities, MB, BC government and labor have been negotiating potential scenarios for a Biosphere Reserve in Clayoquot Sound. Early this year, the Nuuchah-nulth elected government together with MB, formed the Joint Venture Corporation, which has outlined plans to log in northern Clayoquot Sound (maybe). The JVC is 51% Nuuchah-nulth and 49% MB. The signing of this venture has caused much uproar in the local native and nonnative communities.

All of our work in Clayoquot Sound has been worth the while and we must continue to be vigilant. The rate of cut has gone down 95% since the 93 block-

ades. In 97, MB will be doing NO LOGGING in Clayoquot — only International Forest Products will be logging this year. Although not the greatest, the Scientific Panel logging practice recommendations are currently the most progressive logging standards in BC Crown Lands. The Central Regional Board, which was instigated through the Pre-treaty Agreement, is the first step in creating a system of local control over local resources. We are continuing to strive to ensure that our governments represent the peoples' values and beliefs.

You can help by writing the provincial government and telling it to permanently protect key ecological areas in the ancient rainforests, to stop road-building in these areas and to stop clearcutting everywhere. Mention also that you support First Nations' rights to safeguard their traditional territories and ensure the survival of their cultures. Write Premier Glen Clark, Rm. 156, Parliament Bldgs, Victoria, BC, Canada, V8V 1X4, or fax 250-387-0087. For more information on the defense of these rainforests,, contact PO Box 2241, Main Post Office, Vancouver BC, Canada, V6B 1H2, 604-669-4303, email: crn@helix.net [excerpted from *Earth First! Journal* by Jana Thomas, with updates by Valerie Langer and Jan Bate ; edited by GroundWork.]



**Photos...**



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## Cove/Mallard: Still Alive and Kicking!

by the Cove/Mallard Coalition Collective

Imagine a land of enchantment. A place where wild wonders still roam. A place so large that you can lose your soul; so intimate that you will breath life... Cove/Mallard and Otter-Wing are two places where a human, if they could, would turn into a tree and live with the harmony and peace of the Rocky Mountains. Yet unless immediate action is taken, this land will be lost and we will depend on our imagination to relive the memories.

Less than four percent of the native forests remain in the continental United States. Twenty percent of these lie in the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem (GSSE). The GSSE is home to threatened and endangered species, centuries-old trees, the two longest undammed rivers in the country (Salmon and Selway Rivers) — and the Cove/Mallard and Otter-Wing timber sales, some of the most outrageous timber sales in the history of public land management.

Cove/Mallard lies at the heart of three connected wilderness areas and provides an essential biological corridor for migrating species. The 77,000 acre Cove and Mallard

roadless areas are temporarily saved from massive roadbuilding and logging because of the 18-month roadbuilding moratorium implemented by US Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck in February, 1999.

But Cove/Mallard is not permanently protected from the huge timber sales that have been ravaging it for the past seven years. There are six remaining timber sales under the Cove/Mallard EIS. We have no idea how the permanent roadless plan will affect Cove/Mallard, but we do know that the timber companies want that timber bad! We need to make sure that a permanent roadless policy prohibits logging in Cove/Mallard and provides restoration work for the three sales that have

*continued on page 2*

## COMMENTS SOUGHT ON YUCCA MOUNTAIN RAD WASTE PLAN

By *Tori Woodard*

The Department of Energy is poised to release its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed high level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Under the proposal, highly radioactive spent fuel rods from nuclear power reactors will be transported to Yucca Mountain from around the country, impacting 50 million Americans as they roll through towns and cities on trucks and trains. The fuel rods would be placed inside Yucca Mountain, which is located on Newe (Western Shoshone) land both within and adjacent to the Nevada Test Site. Earthquakes, volcanism, corrosive minerals, groundwater, and stretching of the earth's crust in the area could cause radioactivity to escape from the mountain during the 250,000 years that the material would

*continued on page 4*



Tripod and road blockade at the Jack Creek action, in the Cove/Mallard wilderness. Photo courtesy of Cove/Mallard Coalition.

## COVE/MALLARD

*continued from page 1*

already been logged.

The 50,000-acre Wing Creek-Twenty Mile roadless area is not affected by the moratorium. It contains the Otter-Wing and Mackey Day timber sales and is directly adjacent to the Gospel Hump Wilderness. The South Fork of the Clearwater River, a key spawning ground for steelhead trout, is downstream from these timber sales. The area is so steep and wild that human disturbances have been limited until recently. This area has been the focus of our direct action campaign since last summer.

### NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

The Cove/Mallard Coalition is famous for its non-violent direct action and road-blocking techniques. The seven-year Cove/Mallard field campaign is the longest running direct action effort in defense of our National Forests. Tactics range from intricate road blockade structures to tree-sits.

Another component of our campaign is our timber sale monitoring program, which involves field-checking past, current and future timber sales for compliance with environmental laws and logging contracts. Monitoring in Otter-Wing this past summer exposed several road problems which caused the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to visit the sale. During this visit, which we had instigated but to which we were not invited, a two-mile spur road that went through a very wet area was canceled.

Our "multiple fronts" strategy has been highly successful: for Cove/Mallard, roadbuilding and cutting operations were marked for completion by 1997. After nine years, and seven years of direct action, the operation is only 20-25% completed!

### LEGAL ACTION

A coalition of environmentalists filed a lawsuit against the Otter-Wing and Mackey Day timber sales earlier this year. Some of the issues in the lawsuit are: logging and roadbuilding upstream of threatened steelhead and bull trout habitat, failing to do new environmental analysis (the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is ten years old), and failing to do analysis of impacts of the sales on species that have been designated "sensitive" since the EIS was written.

### THE LOCALS

Conversations with loggers suggest we have something in common. They get angry talking about logging companies that close up shop and move elsewhere to gain larger profits.

With this in mind, activists have been trying to build alliances with the logging community. It's very simple: we just talk. One activist made a point of frequently visiting Dixie, the local logging town, to chat with people. "Not about logging," she said,

"but about community." Apparently community was important to Dixie, enough so that some people were willing to at least talk to the hated Earth First!ers.

### COME TO IDAHO'S BIG WILD!

Idaho is an opportunity to learn many valuable activist skills: how to conduct pre- and post-timber sale monitoring, stream and sediment monitoring, climbing skills, legal research, office and outreach coordinating, how to live a low-impact life, and how to live in a cooperative community. Empowering other people is one of the trademarks of the Cove/Mallard Coalition.

Come to Idaho and experience for yourself the magical Big Wild! But don't be surprised if you fall in love and never leave!

Contact the Cove/Mallard Coalition, PO Box 8968 Moscow, ID 83843, (208) 882-9755, [cove@moscow.com](mailto:cove@moscow.com)

## Big Mountain Threat Continues

With the February 1, 2000 deadline fast approaching, the United States has stepped up efforts to force the traditional Dineh (Navajo) elders who remain on Hopi Partition Land to either sign a lease agreement with the Hopi tribal council or agree to be relocated off their ancestral lands.

Supporters call for a campaign of letters and emails to Hillary Clinton, asking her to meet with the Dineh elders as soon as possible. Contact her c/o The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington DC 20500, fax (202) 456-5340, [first.lady@whitehouse.gov](mailto:first.lady@whitehouse.gov)

Get the full story from "On Indian Land," the outstanding publication of Support for Native Sovereignty. \$12/year for 4 issues, from SNS, PO Box 2104, Seattle, WA 98111, (206) 525-5086.

## Europe Resists Genetically-Engineered Beef from U.S.

More bad news for the altered-foods industry: This spring, a European Union (EU) scientific committee concluded that one of the hormones used in the growth of American beef—"betaoestradiol"—should be considered "totally carcinogenic." Due to these findings, the EU refused to lift its embargo on American hormone-treated beef. To voice concerns in the United States, contact the EPA at (703) 305-5017, [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

You can get involved by contacting: **NE Resistance Against Genetic Engineering**, c/o ISE, PO Box 89 Plainfield, VT 05667

**Hexterminators:** [www.atactivist.com](http://www.atactivist.com)  
**Biodevastation Network**, PO Box 8094, St. Louis, MO 63156

**Bioengineering Action Network**, PO Box 11703, Eugene, OR 97440  
[ban@tao.ca](mailto:ban@tao.ca)

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Rainforest Action Network

# Grassroots Organizing: A Continental Update

## Let the Wild Rivers Run Free!

On March 14, the International Day of Action Against Dams and for Rivers, Water and Life, hundreds of people marched through the streets of Baguio City in the Philippines chanting "Ayushi!," the indigenous word for "No!," in protest of the San Roque Dam Project.

On this second annual day of action, 55 events took place in 20 countries. Protests were held in India, Thailand, Brazil, and Spain. Trees were planted in Japan and Slovakia.

A kayak trip celebrated the fact that the Clutha River in New Zealand still runs free despite attempts since 1965 to dam it. South Africa's Cape Town was dotted with blue crosses signifying that its rivers have become polluted, diverted, or simply no longer exist.

In California, activists organized a "Free the Water Relay," hand-carrying water trapped behind the Nimbus Dam on the American River to the San Francisco Bay.

In the past, dams were seen as signs of progress. Since then, we have learned that dams can uproot people and cultures and severely damage regional ecology.

For more information, contact International Rivers Network, 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703, (510) 848-1155, [irn@irn.org](mailto:irn@irn.org), [www.irn.org](http://www.irn.org)

## Nevada Test Site New Year

Ring in the millennium at Nevada Test Site: December 29, 1999, to January 2, 2000. For more information write to Nevada Desert Experience: PO Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127.

## Boycott the Gap

Activists organizing around the Albion River watershed have called for a boycott of the Gap and its Old Navy and Banana Republic offshoots in protest of the unecological logging practices of Mendocino Redwood (MRC), whose principal stockholders include the Fisher family, owners of the Gap.

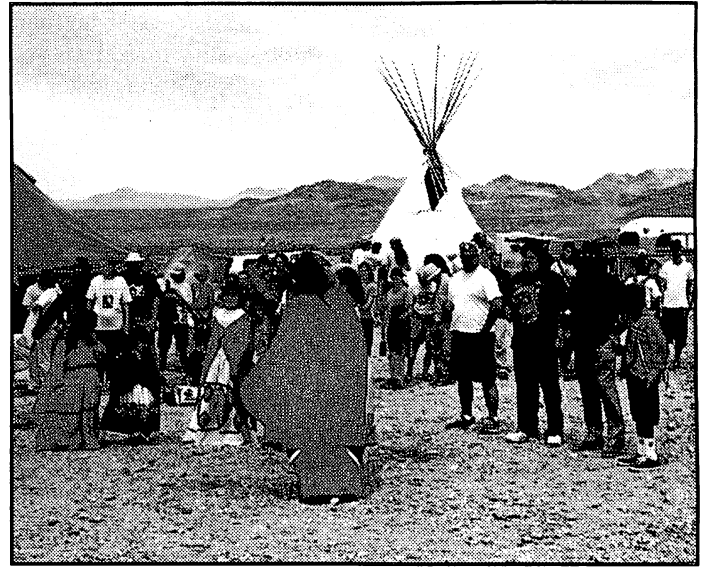
Sandy Dean and John Fisher — Fisher family frontmen for the logging operation — continue to ignore pleas from activists and phone calls from the public asking them to stop cutting near slide areas.

Protest their destruction of the Albion River watershed by continuing to boycott The Gap, Inc. and by calling Sandy Dean at (707) 485-8731 or John Fisher at (415) 392-3600.

For more information, contact Save the Redwoods/Boycott the Gap Campaign, (415) 731-7924, [chalice@wco.com](mailto:chalice@wco.com)

## Plutonium-Laden Cassini to Fly by Earth

On August 17, the Cassini spacecraft (loaded with 72.3 pounds of deadly plutonium) will do its Earth fly-by on its way to Saturn. If anything goes wrong, all that plutonium could end up in our atmosphere. Additionally, NASA has scheduled two more plutonium missions, one in 2003 and one in 2004. The DoE also say they need more "plutonium for space missions" than they can currently produce and are reviewing reopening several



Fort Mojave "New Directions" Youth Dance Group perform at the May 1999 "Honoring the Mother" Nevada Test Site gathering sponsored by Healing Global Wounds. Contact HGW, PO Box 420, Tecopa CA 92389-0420, (760) 852-4175, fax (760) 852-4151, [hgw@scruznet.com](mailto:hgw@scruznet.com)  
Photo by Gisa Castries, courtesy of Jennifer O. Viereck.

plutonium-processing facilities, including the already contaminated facility in Hanford, Washington.

Contact your senator and congressperson and demand cancellation of the fly-by and other plans for the nuclearization of space. Contact Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, PO Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607, (352) 337-9274, [globenet@afn.org](mailto:globenet@afn.org)

## 13 Moons for Peace & Justice: Pagans Organize

After a ritual to end the war in Yugoslavia held in April in San Francisco, participants were inspired to dedicate the next 13 moons to magic for peace and justice. The first of these thirteen moons was on Beltane Eve. Groups met for that moon and the next two, and will continue to work towards peace and healing in Yugoslavia and worldwide. These rituals have used the image of a target transforming into the spiral of life.

On the evening of the full moon (or a time near to it if that works better), focus energy for political change. Join in this work, singly or in groups, wherever you are, under the full moon.

## [www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org)

Get the latest grassroots news at [www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org) — the "news flashes" page will give you regular updates on the full spectrum of grassroots issues!

Thanks to Rain and Elka at Reclaiming Quarterly magazine for help gathering these grassroots news items. Contact RQ at PO Box 14404, San Francisco, CA 94114, [www.reclaiming.org](http://www.reclaiming.org)

# US ECOLOGY GIVES UP ON RAD DUMP PLAN AT WARD VALLEY

By **Tori Woodard**

On March 31, 1999, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled in Washington, D.C., that the Clinton administration does not have to turn over federal land near Needles, California, for the State

of California to build a radioactive waste dump.

Joe Nagel, president of US Ecology (the

licensed dump operator), told the L.A. Times that his company would not appeal the ruling. He added, "I think [the] Ward Valley [dump] is dead."

US Ecology had already closed its Needles office and pulled its equipment out of Ward Valley in December 1998.

Opponents of the dump are now asking supporters to contact California Governor Gray Davis at (916) 324-3501. The state has not yet withdrawn its application for the land, nor has it withdrawn from a Federal Court of Claims lawsuit in which it and US Ecology are asking for reimbursement from the federal government (taxpayers) for the millions of dollars they spent trying to open the dump. Ward Valley is not safe until the state withdraws the land application. Even if US Ecology is no longer interested in it, another waste management firm could propose to build a radioactive waste facility there.

What will US Ecology do next? They seem to be trying to get their existing dump on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state declared a national facility. The Yakima Indian Nation, as well as the Hanford Education Action League (HEAL), are opposed to out-of-state waste being dumped there.

For more info on Ward Valley, Hanford and HEAL, and for Tori Woodard's nationwide survey of the nuclear waste problem and grassroots organizing, visit [www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org)



Indigenous People and their allies from Mexico and the U.S. gathered in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, in January 1999 to protest the proposed Ward Valley, California radioactive waste dump. Photo by Bradley Angel, Greenaction.

[www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org)

— online highlights —

These stories are among our latest uploads to GroundWork's website. If you are not online and want to get a printout of any of these features, contact us — see the box below.

**Stop the Biotech Assault on Earth and Humanity**, by Brian Tokar — It used to be possible for some activists to dismiss genetic engineering and other biotechnologies as ideas recently emerged from science fiction, as problems that could safely be put on the back burner. Compared to the rapid loss of species and habitat, global climate changes, and the chemical poisoning of our air, water and soil, biotechnology seemed to be a relatively distant concern. Today, the situation looks very different. Brian Tokar, whose work has appeared in Z Magazine and the Earth First! Journal as well as GroundWork, offers an incisive analysis of the current state of the biotech industry and citizen organizing in response to the threat.

[www.groundworkmag.org/commun/commun-biotech.html](http://www.groundworkmag.org/commun/commun-biotech.html)

**Nevada Test Site "Honoring the Mother" Gathering** — 700 people gathered at the Nevada Test Site from May 7-10 to celebrate Mother's Day and demand an end to the radioactive poisoning of Mother Earth. Following a rousing rally of music and speakers from around the world at the Test Site gates on Mother's Day, 198 people entered the site. Ian Zabarte of the Western Shoshone National Council put Test Site officials on notice that they were trespassing on Shoshone lands and were in criminal violation of international law.

[www.groundworkmag.org/nuke/nuke-nts-news.html](http://www.groundworkmag.org/nuke/nuke-nts-news.html)

**Death Threats Against Utah Environmentalists** — Environmentalists in Escalante, Utah (including longtime GroundWork correspondent Tori Woodard) have suffered vandalism and received death threats for their opposition to threatened development of wild areas. [www.groundworkmag.org/commun/commun-escalante-threat.html](http://www.groundworkmag.org/commun/commun-escalante-threat.html)

## YUCCA MOUNTAIN

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remain deadly.

Opponents believe the Department of Energy will gauge public opinion about the proposed repository by the volume of comments received on the DEIS. Your voice can make a difference!

The DEIS is expected to be released in June or July 1999 with a 90-day comment period. To receive a copy, contact Wendy R. Dixon, Yucca Mountain Project, Hillshire Complex, 1551 Hillshire Drive M/S423, Las Vegas NV 89134.

[www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org)  
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## Nuclear Waste Campaigns

# Victory on the Low Level Radioactive Waste Front!

by **Tori Woodard**

*[For background and ongoing updates, see GroundWork's web site, [www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org). Not online? See website ad, page 4. And please keep us up to date on events in your region — you are a crucial part of our connection to the grassroots!]*

Opponents of Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) dumps saw two victories last fall and signs of another victory coming up.

### TEXAS DENIES LICENSE FOR SIERRA BLANCA DUMP

On October 22, 1998, the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) voted to deny a license for a proposed LLRW dump in Sierra Blanca, Texas, citing inadequate studies on geology and socioeconomics. Dump opponents attribute their victory to cross-border organizing that galvanized resistance in Mexico.

The Save Sierra Blanca Coalition has vowed to fight any dump proposal in the Southwest and Mexico. They will fight Waste Control Specialists' bid to open a LLRW dump at their hazardous waste facility in Andrews, Texas. They have also joined the campaign to save Ward Valley, California. Contact Save Sierra Blanca, (915) 369-2541.

### US ECOLOGY PULLS UP STAKES IN WARD VALLEY

On December 8, 1998, US Ecology removed its generator and weather station from Ward Valley and closed its office in nearby Needles, saying they could no longer justify the expense of maintaining them to their stockholders. Company spokesperson Scott Peyron said US Ecology still intends to operate a LLRW dump in Ward Valley and would pay its \$250,000 licensing fee in January 1999. However, the

president of American Ecology (US Ecology's parent company) told the Wall Street Journal on January 6 that they might be willing to walk away from Ward Valley if the price is right. Readers can help finish off this dump project by asking new California Governor Gray Davis (who publicly opposed the dump during his tenure as Lieutenant Governor) to withdraw California's land application for Ward Valley and end the state's lawsuits regarding Ward Valley. Contact him at Office of the Governor, State Capitol Building, Sacramento CA 95814. Phone: (916) 445-2841. Fax: (916) 445-4633.

### NEBRASKA DENIES LICENSE TO US ECOLOGY

On December 21, 1998, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) denied US Ecology's application for a license to build a LLRW facility in Boyd County, Nebraska, because the proposed site is in a wetlands. Nebraska is the host state for the Central Interstate Compact, which also includes Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

### BARNWELL LLRW DUMP MAY CLOSE

South Carolina Governor-elect Jim Hodges' transition subcommittee on environmental issues has recommended that the LLRW disposal site at Barnwell close its doors to other states. In 1993 South Carolina withdrew from the seven-state Southeastern Compact because the compact had failed to build a substitute for the thirty-year-old Barnwell dump. Since then Barnwell has been accepting



*Members of the Colorado River Indian Tribes and American Indian Movement security confront Interior Department officials at Ward Valley during the dramatic showdown in spring 1998. The showdown helped stop the proposed LLRW dump, which may be permanently derailed — see accompanying update. For background, see GroundWork's web site, [www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org). Photo by Zachary Singer, Greenaction.*

*continued on page 2*



## Nuclear Waste Campaigns

continued from page 1

waste from around the United States, and South Carolina has been charging a tax of \$235 per cubic foot on the waste to help pay for school improvements and scholarships. However, the revenue has never met the projections of outgoing governor David Beasley.

### US ECOLOGY SEEKS TO REPEAL LLRW ACT

US Ecology called for repealing the LLRW Policy Act in September 1998 testimony before the Senate Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee and in December 1998 press releases. The LLRW Policy Act created the current compact system, in which each state is responsible for its own radioactive waste and can form a compact with other states to dispose of it. (See [www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org) for more info.)

US Ecology operates a LLRW dump for the Northwestern Compact on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation next to Richland, Washington. Presumably if the LLRW Policy Act were repealed, the Richland dump could receive waste from states that are not in the Northwest Compact. Hanford Education Action League (HEAL) is opposed to shipping out-of-compact waste to Richland. Contact them at (509) 326-3370.

### HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE PROJECTS STILL A THREAT

A measure was reintroduced in Congress in early January 1999 as bill number HR 45 that would allow spent fuel rods from the nation's nuclear reactors to be transported through 43 states (within one half mile of over 50 million Americans) and put on a parking lot in the hot desert sun next to the stalled permanent repository at Yucca Mountain.

### URGENT ALERT: U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAVE Y2K PROBLEMS

U.S. nuclear weapons, which are still on alert despite the end of the Cold War, are susceptible to Year 2000 computer problems. The Department of Defense will only be able to fix about one-half of its Y2K bugs before January 1, 2000. We must not take the chance of a computer malfunction causing a missile to fire accidentally or self-destruct in its silo. Demand that President Clinton de-alert the nation's nuclear warheads before December 31, 1999. Call (202) 456-1414 or e-mail: [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

### KEEP US UPDATED!

Please keep us up to date on events in your region — you are a crucial part of our connection to the grassroots!

## DEFENDING OUR FORESTS

continued from page 3

high-capacity woodchipping operations (known as chip mills) provide jobs, benefit hardwood lumber producers and strengthen the economy. Willamette Industries, based in Portland, Oregon, built two high-capacity chip mills in Pennsylvania in 1994. Each mill employs six people and has the capacity to chip 300,000 tons per year, which amounts to 18,000 acres of forest logged each year. Both of these chip mills rely on trees from a 125-mile radius, including the Allegheny National Forest, the Susquehannock, Moshannon, Sprout, Bald Eagle, and Tioga state forests and the majority of private forest lands in central and western Pennsylvania. These facilities' dependence on logging public lands is a particular concern for many citizens.

### STATES HALT NEW CHIP MILLS

Recently, Governor Mel Carnahan of Missouri issued a moratorium on any new chip mills. Citizens raised concerns over the economic and environmental impacts of Willamette's chip mill in Mill Springs, Missouri, which takes wood from the Mark Twain National Forest. North Carolina's Governor James Hunt, prompted by citizen outcry over a Willamette mill in Union Mills, North Carolina, issued a ban on new chip mills until completion of a two-year sustainability study assessing the impacts to the state's forests.

The woodchipping problem is region-wide and not isolated to Pennsylvania. "These machines represent the most unregulated, highly mechanized sector of the timber industry. Over 100 chip mills have sprung up in the eastern U.S. in the last 10 years and pose the gravest threats to the hardwood forests since they recovered from the previous century of logging and clearing," stated Jake Kreilick, Campaign Coordinator for the Native Forest Network. A 1995 West Virginia University study, "Economic Impacts of the Wood Products Industry," published by the Bureau of Business and

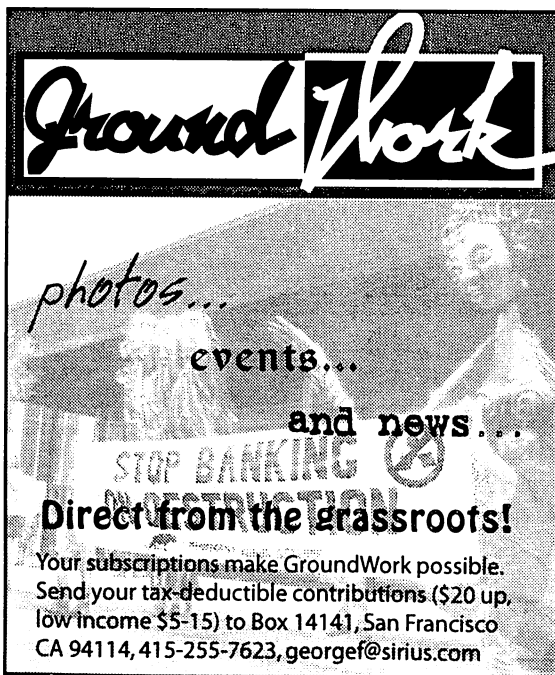
Economic Research, assessed the consequences of such activity. It concluded that in the past decade, as the pulp and chip industry expanded into hardwood forests, the overall cut is beginning to exceed forest growth.

For more information contact Susan Curry: (814) 229-4816. A manual on chip mills and citizen protest is available online at [www.green.net.au/boycott/bwchome.htm](http://www.green.net.au/boycott/bwchome.htm)

Background information on chip mills, including a guide to regional contacts, is available in GroundWork issue #6 and #7, and online at [www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org)

### EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL

Earth First! Journal is an excellent source of forest news and organizing. \$25 brings eight issues (one year), from PO Box 1415, Eugene, OR 97440.



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Rainforest Action Network

# Defending Our Forests: A Continental Update

## DIRECT ACTION SPURS PROGRESS AT CLAYOQUOT SOUND IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Blockades of 1993 spurred the formation by the British Columbia government of a Science Panel — a group of blue ribbon scientists and First Nations' delegates whose mandate was to draft recommendations for how to log Clayoquot Sound.

The recommendations that came out of this panel were a dramatic shift from the traditional volume-based logging. Coincident with the Science Panel, the Nuu-chah-nulth tribal government (local First Nations) signed a pre-treaty agreement (the Interim Measures Agreement) with the BC government. Part of this Agreement is a local board which has a major say in resource decisions in Clayoquot Sound.

Meanwhile, environmental groups have been continuing to put pressure on Macmillan Bloedel (MB) customers, such as Pac Bell in San Francisco and Kimberly-Clark in the EEC. At this point enviros have managed to cancel tens of millions of dollars of MB contracts, and gained support from city councils against logging in temperate rainforests, such as Berkeley, San Francisco and Marin County in California.

### BLOCKADE AT RANKIN COVE

Last summer, the Friends of Clayoquot Sound and Greenpeace

blockaded at Rankin Cove because we were at a stalemate regarding intact watersheds. There are, in total, 170 large watersheds on Vancouver Island; only twelve of them plus two large islands remain unspoiled by logging. Half of the twelve watersheds and both islands are in Clayoquot Sound. We the people don't feel it's time to negotiate how best to experimentally log the last remaining unspoiled watersheds on Vancouver Island. Neither the Central Regional Board, the Nuu-chah-nulth, nor the BC government were moving. To date, these blockades are "suspended" pending the negotiated initiatives to explore the potential of having a United Nations Biosphere Reserve in Clayoquot Sound.

Early this year, the Nuu-chah-nulth tribal government, together with MB, formed the Joint Venture Corporation, which has outlined plans to log in northern Clayoquot Sound (maybe). The JVC is 51% Nuu-chah-nulth and 49% MB. The signing of this venture has caused much uproar in the local native and non-native communities.

On the positive side, the rate of cut has gone down 95% since the 1993 blockades. Although not the greatest, the Scientific Panel logging practice recommendations are currently the most progressive logging standards in BC Crown Lands. The Central Regional Board, which was instigated through the Pre-treaty Agreement, is the first step in creating a system of local control over local resources. It is composed of half First Nations government and half non-native local government.

For more information, contact Chris Hatch at Rainforest Action Network, [rainforest@ran.org](mailto:rainforest@ran.org). For background information, see GroundWork's web site, [www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org)

## RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK INTERVIEW

An excellent interview with Kelly Quirke, Executive Director of Rainforest Action Network, appeared in the Winter issue of Reclaiming Quarterly. The interview, covering both RAN's work and broader strategy questions, is available from RQ, PO Box 14404, San Francisco, CA 94114, [www.reclaiming.org](http://www.reclaiming.org). It will be posted online in the spring.

## EARTH FIRST! / NFN PROTEST SHUTS DOWN CHIP MILL IN PENNSYLVANIA

It wasn't business as usual on October 20, 1998 at Keystone Chipping, a Willamette Industries wood chip mill, located near Kane, Pennsylvania. Concerned citizens from several states blockaded the mill's front gate. Willamette's poor forestry practices, toxic releases and insensitivity to communities brought people to protest this corporation.

Coinciding with Pennsylvania Forest Products Week, the action challenged the industry argument that



Doug Thron

The fight for **Headwaters Forest** continues on both the legal and direct action fronts. In the early fall, Earth First! activist David "Gypsy" Chain was killed by a falling tree, downed by loggers who knew that protesters were in the area. Protests and tree-sits continued through fall and winter.

Meanwhile, Pacific Lumber had its license suspended for flagrant violations of legal logging practices, including cutting too close to streams and on unstable slopes. Logging was continued by contract loggers.

A much-ballyhooed agreement that would use public funds to purchase a small fraction of the Headwaters ecosystem from Pacific Lumber has been held up by strenuous citizen protests concerning the extent of the purchase and environmental safeguards.

Stay up to date on the Headwaters defense by contacting Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters, (510) 835-6303. GroundWork's web site, [www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org) carries updates and photos of ongoing organizing.



# Indigenous People and Allies Oppose Australian Uranium Mine

## 90 Arrests at September Protest

Over 250 people protested and 90 were arrested last September as Australians voiced their opposition to a proposed uranium mine in one of the most beautiful areas of the country.

The proposed Jabiluka uranium mine is situated in the heart of Kakadu national park, one of the most beautiful and diverse areas of Australia's World Heritage, and is strongly opposed by the Mirrar people, traditional land owners of the area.

While the struggle of the Mirrar began earlier than 1996, the election of the Howard government has brought about the next chapter in the twenty year battle to stop uranium mining in Kakadu. Upon election, the Howard government was swamped by requests from mining companies for uranium, and Jabiluka has been at the top of the list of new mines.

The Mirrar have called on those opposed to Jabiluka to join with the Mirrar, not only as custodians of Kakadu National Park, but as families seeking to protect the laws derived from their land and handed down to them by their ancestors.

On September 29, 1998, over 250 people gathered at the entrance to the lease in a dawn presence and were joined by members of the Mirrar people. The crowd was welcomed onto Mirrar land by Yvonne Margarula, the senior traditional owner, who thanked them for their support. Wearing cut-out John Howard masks, people assembled and walked peacefully onto the Jabiluka Mineral Lease and along the road to the construction site before over 90 were arrested by police. For more info: [www.jabiluka.net](http://www.jabiluka.net), [www.green.net.au/gundeghmi](http://www.green.net.au/gundeghmi)

## Center for Appropriate Transport Offers Programs for Oregon Youth

The Center for Appropriate Transport in Eugene, Oregon, which operates the Eugene Bicycle Works, a community workspace and skills center, is offering a variety of programs for young people aged 12-18. Programs include bicycle mechanics, computer design/drafting skills, and photography journalism (helping produce the Center's magazine, "Oregon Cycling.")

Contact CAT, (541) 344-1197 for more information.

## Nevada Test Site Gathering May 7-10, 1999

There will be a gathering at Nevada Test Site over Mothers Day weekend, May 7-10, 1999, including cultural and educational events as well as direct action to shut the Test Site and reclaim Western Shoshone land.

Contact Healing Global Wounds, (831) 661-0445, [hgw@scruznet.com](mailto:hgw@scruznet.com)

## Ohio Pollution Victims March on Chem Plant

A hundred citizens stood bound and gagged in front of the Georgia Pacific chemical plant in Columbus, Ohio on September 19 in protest of corporate secrecy surrounding toxic pollution. An explosion in 1997 killed one worker and shook nearby residences and a school, spurring a public outcry.

A 1996 law sponsored by offending corporations makes it nearly impossible for citizens who are involved in a complaint against a company to obtain copies of internal documents which might reveal the truth. And the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has declined to pursue an investigation of Georgia Pacific.

So in September, environmental groups including the Ohio Environmental Council, the Ohio chapter of the Sierra Club, Rivers Unlimited, Ohio Public Interest Research Group, and Ohio Citizen organized their own hearings. The protest march followed the hearings.

## South Dakota Rejects Factory Farms

South Dakota voters approved a November 1998 initiative which forbids corporate ownership of not only farms, but of livestock. Corporations had been evading an older law by paying family farms to raise corporate-owned cattle.

Members of Dakota Rural Action, which initiated the Amendment E campaign, believe that the new measure will protect both family farms and the environment.

Keep up on western regional news by subscribing to the *Western Organizing Review*, published quarterly by the Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project. \$20/year, payable to WORC, 2401 Montana Ave #301, Billings, MT 59101.

## Kentucky Petition to Save Black Mountain

The upper elevations of Black Mountain, Kentucky's tallest peak, would be saved from mining under a petition to the state's Department for Surface Mining Reclamation filed in December by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.

KFTC is interested in protection of the area's water supply, which has been contaminated by mining. It also aims to preserve Black Mountain's biological uniqueness. As many as fifty plant and animal species not found elsewhere in the state live in the upper elevations of the peak.

Subscribe to "Balancing the Scales," the bi-weekly publication of KFTC. Send \$20 to KFTC, PO Box 697, Salyersville, KY 41465.

## Keep GroundWork Posted on Your Organizing!

We count on you, our readers, to keep us posted on events in your area! Send stories, news releases, newsletters, etc to the address in the accompanying box.

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## Thousands Protest School of the Americas Reputed Torture Academy Trains Central, South American Military

By Tom Baxter

UNITED IN PROTEST of the U.S. Army School of the Americas, 4408 people risked arrest and crossed the line onto the Ft. Benning, Georgia military base on Sunday, November 21. Of those, 65 were arrested and 23 who had crossed the line in previous years will face prosecution for trespassing on federal property.

Although more than 4400 people from around the country risked arrest by crossing the Ft. Benning property line, the Army processed and served "bar and ban" notices to only 65 individuals, most of whom were among the group that led the procession onto the base wearing black mourning shrouds and "death masks" and bearing coffins. Once on the base, they smeared red paint on themselves and lay next to the coffins. The majority of the line-crossers were seized and taken in buses to a public park approximately two miles away from the base. An estimated 500 people who refused to board the 30 waiting buses remained on the base until about 6:15 p.m., at which point they marched back to the base's entrance where the crowd cheered their return.

SOA Watch estimated that 12,000 people from the around the country, as well as from Peru, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and Canada, attended the day-long vigil,



compared to 7000 last year. The number of those risking arrest nearly doubled, from 2319 in 1998. This year, the event honored the memory of the six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter who were murdered by SOA graduates in El Salvador.

"We are telling the leaders of SOA that they can change their name and move the school, but we are not going away," said Adriana Portillo-Bartow of Chicago, a Guatemalan human rights worker whose family members, including her father and two daughters, were disappeared during the Guatemalan civil war. Also present at the vigil were actor Martin Sheen and long-time peace activist and Catholic priest Daniel Berrigan.

At noon on Sunday, as people carrying white crosses crossed onto the military base, the names of SOA victims, including the six Jesuit priests, Portillo-Bartow's family members, and those who were killed in the 1981 massacre of nearly 1000 villagers in El Mozote, El Salvador, were read aloud. The crowd responded by calling out "Presenté" after each name, as a gesture that the dead were with them in spirit. The procession took more than an hour to cross onto the base.

"We will keep coming back in greater numbers until the school is shut down," said SOA Watch founder and co-director Father Roy Bourgeois. The year 2000 will mark the tenth year that SOA Watch will organize a mass vigil at Ft. Benning.

For more information, see [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)

Tom Baxter is a veteran, USA 66-69, Vietnam 67-69.



Photos courtesy of Dana Davis, University of Florida's Student Peace Action.

Top: Faith-based activists have played a strong role in organizing around the School of the Americas.

Bottom: Over 4400 people trespassed at SOA, and 12,000 joined the protest.



# FOREST NEWS AND ACTIVISM

## Forest Service Cancels White Mountain Timber Sale After Citizen Opposition

**New Hampshire** —Native Forest Network (NFN) and the Conservation Action Project (CAP) teamed up last summer to halt logging projects in White Mountain National Forest.

The groups have appealed the Trestle and Bickford timber sales, which propose stripping nearly four million board feet of wood from 500 acres of popular recreation areas adjacent to the pristine Pemigewasset Wilderness. Substantial clearcutting is planned, although a survey conducted in association with the Forest Service found that 86% of respondents oppose clearcutting at WMNF.

Nevertheless, in June 1999, WMNF District Ranger Anne Archie approved the Trestle Timber Sale, which would strip 1.4 million board feet of wood, removing thousands of trees, and found that the logging operation would have no significant impacts on the environment.

Shortly thereafter NFN and CAP filed an administrative appeal describing probable impacts and outlining the laws the Forest Service had violated in giving the approval.

NFN and CAP challenged the decision by the Forest Service to approve the Trestle Timber Sale. According to the groups, the agency had not adequately considered impacts to wildlife, rivers and streams, or recreation while ignoring concerns raised by the public.

On August 26, Ms. Archie withdrew her decision to approve the logging project. No reason was given for the withdrawal.

*Native Forest Network organizes educational events and direct action on several continents. For more info, contact NFN's Eastern North American Resource Center, PO Box 57, Burlington, VT 05402, (802)863-0571, fax (802)864-8203, nfnena@sover.net, www.nativeforest.org*

## Unlikely Partners Oppose Washington Timber Transfer

**Washington** — Earth First! Activists and local citizens of Randle, Washington have forged an alliance to stop logging of 15,000 acres of Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

"A most unlikely love affair has blossomed. On our side we bathe and change before we go into town, we don't steal and we thoroughly fulfill

our vow to a sober and drug-free base camp. In return we have received such gifts as all the firewood and food we can want, a free apartment to serve as an office and an ex-mill worker and a local boy scout who spend nights in the trees. The Taidnapum Kowlitchk Illahee, original people holding aboriginal title, have given us permission to occupy the forest to defend it."

*Get this and related stories at [www.earthfirstjournal.org](http://www.earthfirstjournal.org)*

## Earth First! Fights Colorado Timber Cut at Taylor Ranch

**Colorado** — The five year, five million dollar Culebra timber sale involves a devastating cut of 32 million board feet (that's about 4,000 logging truck loads). Stone Forest Industries (Stone Container), the international earth destroyer, is attacking pristine old growth Doug fir and Ponderosa in the privately-owned wild lands known as the Culebra Mountain Tract, or La Sierra (aka "Taylor Ranch"). Stone cut five to eight thousand acres in the first nine months of the five-year timber sale contract.

The largely roadless 77,000 acre mountain tract is proven habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, Rio Grande cutthroat trout, Southwestern willow flycatcher, and other endangered, threatened, or rare species.

La Sierra is also the headwaters of the 200 oldest farming families in Colorado, who rely on an intact forest canopy for their spring snowmelt irrigation waters. The local community is well organized and actively opposing the logging, but help is urgently needed. *Contact Culebra EarthFirst! at PO Box 762, San Luis, CO 81152, afr@amigo.net*



*Earth First! and Ancient Forest Rescue activists used theatre and direct action to protest the Taylor Ranch timber sales following the June 1999 Earth First! Rendezvous. See story above. Photo by Karen Pickett.*



# ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIVISM

## Mother's Day Gathering at Nevada Test Site

May 12-15, 2000

Join us to welcome and support the Western Shoshone National Council's Spirit Walk around the test site, which begins May 7th in Warm Springs, and will arrive at the test site on Friday, May 12th.

May 13 - Celebration of Life with music and speakers from our communities.

May 14 - Mother's Day Brunch, Rally, and Nonviolent Direct Action

May 15 - Occupy and resist the Nevada Test Site

Contact Shundahai Network, 5007 Elmhurst Lane, Las Vegas NV 89108-1304, (702) 647-3095, fax: (702) 647-9385, [www.shundahai.org](http://www.shundahai.org), [shundahai@shundahai.org](mailto:shundahai@shundahai.org)

## Governor Turns Tail, Revives Ward Valley Nuke Dump Plan

IN A DISTURBING TURNABOUT, Governor Gray Davis has revived the proposal for a dangerous radioactive waste dump at Ward Valley, near Needles, CA.

Davis has assembled a Task Force composed predominantly of nuclear waste generators to address nuclear waste disposal in California. Ward Valley dump proponents outnumber representatives of environmental groups and Native American tribes by three to one. Key experts on radioactive waste have been purposely excluded.

The Task Force plans to revive the Ward Valley dump proposal, in critical habitat for an endangered species and on sacred Indian lands.

The coalition of Native American tribes and anti-nuclear and environmental activists which has successfully fought the dump for the past decade urges you to contact Governor Davis: State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841, fax (916) 445-4633.

For more information call the BAN Waste Coalition, (415) 752-8678 or (415) 868-2146, or Greenaction, (415) 252-0822.

For background info, and for Tori Woodard's nationwide survey of the nuclear waste problem and grassroots organizing, visit [www.groundworkmag.org](http://www.groundworkmag.org)

## Nuclear Free Northeast Targets Nuclear Power

THE NUCLEAR FREE NORTHEAST Campaign is a grassroots effort to end our region's reliance on nuclear power as quickly as possible.

The campaign includes educational work as well as grassroots activism and protest in its efforts toward safe, sustainable energy.

On the Campaign's website ([www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org)), you'll learn about the problems associated with New England's nuclear reactors. These problems run the gamut from severe safety deficiencies to the production of electricity too expensive to use; from a lack of scientifically-defensible radioactive waste storage plans to the virtual abandonment of safe, clean, sustainable energy sources.

Nuclear power is increasingly becoming an outmoded, obsolete and highly dangerous technology. There are better ways of meeting our electrical needs, but even as atomic energy fades, it becomes — like the disappearing dinosaur slashing its spiked tail one last time — even more hazardous. Under utility restructuring, utilities cut back their maintenance of nuclear reactors, leading to still greater safety issues. Nuclear waste problems cause utilities to promote desperate and dangerous storage schemes. Rather than invest in sustainable energy sources, utilities hoard their dollars for a last-ditch effort to keep their reactors running in an attempt to recover their huge construction costs.

Nowhere are these tendencies more pronounced than in New England. Four reactors (Yankee Rowe, Connecticut Yankee, Maine Yankee and Millstone-1) have closed permanently during the 1990s. Aging reactors like Vermont Yankee and Nine Mile Point-1 hang by a thread. And huge behemoths like Seabrook and Millstone-3 produce electricity few can afford.

The Nuclear Free Northeast Campaign is seeking a better way. We're trying to stop the cancers, illnesses and threat of meltdown caused by nuclear reactors. We want electric bills that don't reflect the enormous costs associated with atomic power plants. We want to stop making and dumping atomic waste and to prevent the recycling of radioactive materials into the consumer marketplace. We want programs to implement clean and cost-effective wind power, solar power and energy efficiency technologies.

This is not a pipe dream. It is a potential reality now, today.

Find out more at [www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org), or contact Citizens Awareness Network, (413) 339-5781.

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# Grassroots Organizing: A Continental Update

## Action Camps Prepare to Resist Nuke Shipments

Inspired by the 20,000 nonviolent protesters who fought the March 1997 shipment of six casks of spent nuclear fuel to a salt mine in Gorleben, Germany (see GroundWork issue #7), U.S. activists are gearing up for a similar battle if the federal government okays shipments of spent nuclear fuel to Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Activist strategy is to re-ignite the anti-nuclear power civil resistance movement by organizing regional action camps focused on nuclear power plants.

**The Nuclear Free Northeast** camp will be held from August 18-22, 2000, in Dummerston, Vermont, followed by an action at the Vermont Yankee corporate headquarters. Contact the Citizens Awareness Network at (413) 339-8768, [www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org)

**The Nuclear Free Great Lakes** camp will be from August 13-20. Contact the Nuclear Energy Information Service at (847) 869-7650, [www.neis.org](http://www.neis.org)

**The Nuclear Free Yucca Mountain** action and day of information on October 8-9 at the Peace Camp at the Nevada Test Site is being organized by Shundahai Network. Contact (702) 647-3095, [www.shundahai.org](http://www.shundahai.org)

**The Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS)** initiated the action camp idea and will help other groups who may want to organize a camp. Contact Michael Marriott at (202) 328-0002, [www.nirs.org](http://www.nirs.org)

In related news, the Department of Energy closed the comment period on their Draft Environmental Impact

Statement for Yucca Mountain in February, 2000. The "Mobile Chernobyl" bill passed Congress in winter 2000, killed only by President Clinton's promised veto. The bill would ship spent nuclear fuel from the nation's nuke plants to a parking lot next to Yucca Mountain. The shipments would pass through 43 states, within one half mile of over 50 million Americans.

For an update on Yucca Mountain plans and organizing, see [www.groundworkmag.org/nuke/waste/nuke-waste-yucca.html](http://www.groundworkmag.org/nuke/waste/nuke-waste-yucca.html)

Tori Woodard's coverage of nuclear waste organizing across the United States can also be found on the website.

— by *Tori Woodard*

## British Columbian island threatened with clearcuts

**Salt Spring Island, BC** — Salt Spring is a stunning, relatively undeveloped island between Vancouver Island and the British Columbia mainland. It is a sister island to the San Juans off the coast of Washington.

In November 1999, the community was shocked to discover that approximately 5000 acres (10% of the island's land mass) of our most pristine, ecologically sensitive land had been sold to Texada Land Corporation. The new owners are logging heavily, despite the community's repeated request to use sustainable logging practices. By the end of 2000, over 1000 acres will have disappeared.


Find out more about this threat, and how local citizens are organizing to save their forest — [www.groundworkmag.org/forest/forest-saltspring.html](http://www.groundworkmag.org/forest/forest-saltspring.html)

## How We Really Shut down the WTO

"When authoritarians think about leadership, the picture in their minds is of one person, usually a guy, or a small group standing up and telling other people what to do. Power is centralized and requires obedience.

"In contrast, our model of power was decentralized, and leadership was invested in the group as a whole. People were empowered to make their own decisions, and the centralized structures were for co-ordination, not control. As a result, we had great flexibility and resilience, and many people were inspired to acts of courage they could never have been ordered to do."

Author and activist Starhawk offers a first-hand analysis of key aspects of our model of decentralized, non-hierarchical organizing — [www.groundworkmag.org/commun/commun-wto-starhawk.html](http://www.groundworkmag.org/commun/commun-wto-starhawk.html)



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